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THE TIMES



TIMES

30p

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31 1990

Germany will be united says Gorbachov

'Aim to control pace of change not prevent it'

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet and East German leaders appeared to accept for the first time yesterday that the re-unification of the two German states was inevitable and that they could aim at most to control the pace of change, not to prevent it.

The East German Prime Minister, Herr Hans Modrow, told journalists in Moscow that he envisaged a confederation of the two German states, but could not predict when it would be formed.

Earlier, President Gorbachov had said the idea of German unity was not in doubt, but that careful preparation was needed.

The Soviet news agency Tass reported President Gorbachov as saying that the question of German unity "was not unexpected. In principle, no one has any doubt about it", but he added: "The course of events in the world,

in the GDR and in the USSR, call for profound reflection on – and an analytical approach to – this question which is an important aspect of European and international politics."

The need to consider the European dimension was also emphasized by Herr Modrow, who said that no change could take place without consultation first with the four

Talks between the US and the USSR have been put back a day amid reports that President Gorbachov has threatened to resign as Communist Party leader. The meeting has been postponed so as not to clash with an important party meeting and will now take place on Thursday and Friday next week.

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powers who divided Germany into zones of occupation at the end of the war and who still preside over the administration of Berlin, and second with other European countries.

He said that in the present climate of East-West relations it was likely that agreement could be reached.

The acceptance of unification, if only in the form of a confederation with West Germany, is a greater political concession by the East German leadership than it is from Moscow and appears to have been forced by the pressure of developments at home.

Earlier German leaders, including Herr Modrow's predecessor, Herr Egon Krenz, seemed set against unification in any form, countenancing only grudgingly the remote possibility of a closer relationship between the two German states. Herr Modrow has now been compelled to see confederation as desirable compared with the choice of his country's col-

lapse or full unification with West Germany.

In recent months, President Gorbachov has seemed less hostile than several of his officials to the idea of a united Germany. Soviet policy under his predecessors was set against what they termed "revanchism", and his foreign minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze has continued that line.

Answering questions in Rome last November, Mr Gorbachov countenanced the possibility of a united Germany, but projected it into the very distant future. Now, the speed of developments in Eastern Europe and also, perhaps, the possibility of East Germany's economic collapse as emigration continues, has instilled a sense of urgency into his words.

Yesterday, alluding to the continuing street demonstrations in East German cities where earlier calls for democracy and the right to emigrate have been replaced by demands for unification, he was quoted as saying: "Time itself is pressing on this process, giving dynamism to it. It is necessary to act responsibly and not decide this important question on the streets."

Herr Modrow also spoke of the East German leadership's

Continued on page 22, col 7

INSIDE



● The Times Crossword is 60 years old tomorrow.

To mark the event this week we are publishing

The Times Diamond Jubilee Crossword, the equivalent of nine regular puzzles and the biggest we have ever compiled.

● The puzzle is not only as challenging as any published since February 1, 1930, but carries 12 prizes, including a holiday for two in India plus £1,000 cash. The third set of clues appears on page 12

Portfolio PLATINUM

● There were four winners of yesterday's Portfolio Platinum competition: see page 3. Today's chance to win £2,000 is on page 27

Ambulance vote Yesterday's day of action in support of ambulance workers was met by government refusal to improve its final pay offer and a Commons vote against a new pay mechanism Page 2

Clowes link Money invested with Barlow Clowes International may have been used to buy Costa del Sol property developed by a financial services operation which collapsed two weeks ago Page 23

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By Edward Gorman
Irish Affairs Correspondent

Dr Patrick Hillery, Irish President, has been called on to use his influence to speed the return to use of an 180-year-old preserved head of an Aboriginal.

The head is the property of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland which received it 100 years ago in a bequest and has no intention of surrendering it, in spite of the fact that Aborigines regard the head as still living until buried properly in sacred land in Australia.

Mr Rikki Shields, an Aboriginal photographer and film maker, who is visiting Dublin, believes the head may be that of Pemulwoy, a guerrilla leader who led Aborigines in campaigns against the British until he was captured and killed in 1862. The head was sub-

sequently sent to London. In a letter to Dr Hillery, Mr Shields said Pemulwoy still lives in the minds of Aboriginal people. He believes that the college has no right to the head which, together with other Aboriginal objects in Ireland, had been stolen originally by the British in a crime being perpetrated by the Irish.

"Nobody can own somebody else's body," Mr Shields said. "An Irishman cannot own the body of an Aboriginal from Australia. We feel strongly about this. They say got it quite legally. They are using white man's law, which was inherited from the British. Morally and spiritually, they should apologize to the Aboriginal nation. Our elders should be allowed to come over and bring home the head." Mr Joseph Grace, a spokesman for the college, said yesterday it had

not been approached directly by Mr Shields. He said the college was "aware" of the Aboriginal legend surrounding burial ceremonies but still regarded the head as the legal custodian of the head.

Mr Grace said the head was rare and unique. He said it may be used ultimately by scientists using DNA analysis techniques to help reconstruct the environment in which its owner lived. This could benefit all mankind.

Dr Hillery's office refused to confirm that he had received a letter from Mr Shields or whether he would intervene. The tattooed head of a young Maori chief was at the centre of similar controversy in May 1988 when it appeared on a list for sale by Bonham's, the London auctioneers. The head was returned to New Zealand for burial.

Crackdown on protesters



A South African policeman using his truncheon on a protester in Bloemfontein where the English cricket rebels played yesterday. Mass protest, page 10; Tour in crisis, page 46.

Neil acclaims £1,000 libel award as vindication

By Robin Young

considering its verdict, said: "It is bizarre. I am surprised by the verdict, but readers can still look to *The Sunday Telegraph* over articles about his relationship with Mrs Pamela Bordes, the former Commons researcher exposed as a prostitute.

There was a further token award of 60p – the price of a quality Sunday newspaper – for *Times Newspapers*.

Mr Neil had claimed the articles suggested he was unfit for his job because he had knowingly associated with a call girl. Mrs Bordes, whose prostitution was exposed in the *News of the World* last March, had been Mr Neil's girlfriend for four months the previous year.

Last night Mr Neil said of the verdict: "It is a model decision. The jury came down firmly on my side, but did not give an award so large that it might have embarrassed me as an editor who is often at the other end of the libel laws. I hope other juries might follow this one's example. We never sought big damages but to vindicate and establish reputation, and that we have fully achieved."

Earlier, outside the court, he had said: "I am delighted and very pleased. It was a tough fight and not pleasant to have many of these things brought back into the public eye all over again, but we have won."

"Originally I asked only for an apology."

Mr Neil said he thought he might celebrate his victory with a small modest drink".

Mr Worsthorne, who returned to work as editor of the comment section of *The Sunday Telegraph* while the jury spent three and a half hours

of the kitchen, but don't look to the law courts as a privileged hiding place."

Mr Neil pointed out that his side had been awarded all their costs, which could be as much as £50,000. The total costs of the case are expected to reach £250,000.

After the verdict, Mr Patrick Milmo, QC, for Mr Worsthorne, asked Mr Justice Michael Davies not to award costs against the defendants in respect of *Times Newspapers*' part in the action, saying the jury's award made it clear that it regarded it as "a non-malitious claim".

The judge said: "Well, if you had paid £1 into court you could have had your costs, but you did not."

It is open to defendants in libel actions to pay into court amounts offered in settlement. If they are bigger than the eventual award, costs cannot be awarded against the defendants. In this case, the defendants paid nothing into court.

In concluding his summing-up, the judge had told the jury that whatever its verdict, Mr Neil would leave the court with his reputation intact.

Declining and output is flat with profit margins under pressure.

In the foreign exchange market, the pound yesterday continued to benefit from last week's better trade figures and continuing high interest rates, closing slightly up against both the DM and the dollar.

Details, page 4
Leading article, page 15
'Stamp nears', page 23

Cash boost for NHS, roads and colleges

By Rodney Lord

and Nigel Williamson

Public spending is to rise by £5.5 billion next year compared with plans set out a year ago. The extra money will go largely to the NHS, roads, higher education and the two following years.

City analysts said the rise in spending, coupled with the growing overrun in the current year, would increase pressure on Mr Major for a prudent

annual Public Expenditure White Paper. As foreshadowed in the autumn statement by Mr John Major, the Chancellor, spending will total £179 billion next year, and £192.3 billion and £203.4 billion in the two following years.

Concern about the backlog to the budget was also increased yesterday by a generally gloomy survey of busi-

ness opinion by the Confederation of British Industry which showed business optimism at its lowest since October, 1980.

Industry sees orders in the home market falling steeply, but optimism about exports has recovered strongly, helped by the fall in sterling. Investment intentions have weakened, and employment is expected to fall. Orders are

declining and output is flat with profit margins under pressure.

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Details, page 4
Leading article, page 15
'Stamp nears', page 23

19 feared dead as storm sinks ship

By Paul Wilkinson

A Greek cargo ship moored off the Isle of Wight in stormy seas is believed to have sunk yesterday so fast that no mayday signal could be broadcast.

Coastguards fear that all 19 crew perished as the Flag of Theophano plummeted in 45ft of water.

Two bodies were washed ashore in the Solent.

A Solent coastguard said they understood the ship anchored at St Helen's Roads at

HAMPSHIRE
Southampton
Portsmouth
Hayling Island
ISLE OF WIGHT
Ship sank here
10 miles

Spun on Monday. "We heard nothing more until a report that a lifeboat had been found in the morning at Hayling Island. We heard no mayday calls during the night.

"What happened to her is a complete mystery, but what ever it was, probably happened while most of the crew were turned in down below.

The search for survivors was abandoned last night as winds gusting up to gale-force eight in torrential rain and a 6ft swell.

"There seems little chance of finding anyone alive now, but we must go on until we have found some positive evidence," a coastguard said last night at the maritime rescue centre at Lee-on-Solent, near Portsmouth.

Bad weather stopped Royal Navy divers searching an area where an oil slick and

Continued on page 22, col 4

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Continued on page 22, col 4

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Pay rises for public sector may be staged

Electrician is sentenced for bad work that cost life

By David Sapsted

An electrician was found guilty of manslaughter yesterday for shoddy work that cost the life of a father. Lawyers immediately predicted that the long-awaited decision at Maidstone Crown Court could have far-reaching consequences for anyone — from car mechanics to doctors — deemed to have caused a death by poor workmanship.

After one of the first prosecutions of its kind, Stephen Holloway, aged 43, from Ashford, Kent, received a nine-month suspended prison sentence for the manslaughter of Mr Stephen French, aged 23. Mr French died in front of his son aged one when he was electrocuted after touching the steel sink in his grandmother's home in High Halstead.

Holloway had wired up a new central heating system at the house and had connected a live wire in the programme to an earth lead in the junction box. The error meant that, at certain times, anything connected to metal pipework in the house was live.

After members of the family had repeatedly received shocks from the system and after a delivery driver had been knocked from the top of an oil tank by the jolt he received, the electrician had twice checked his work and declared it to be sound. Mr French, who was in stockinged feet and standing on a damp floor when he received the shock, died five months after the installation.

Last night, Sir David Napley, one of Britain's foremost criminal solicitors, said: "In this modern age life has become cheap and I think that where someone has, by reason of recklessness, terminated someone else's life, it is desirable they be prosecuted. It is a warning to others. If such prosecutions enforce the message that people have a duty to take care to safeguard the lives of others, then it must be welcomed."

A leading criminal lawyer said: "This is the first case anyone can recall of its kind. The ramifications could be enormous: electricians, builders, car mechanics, doctors

... anyone, in fact, who undertakes work and makes a mistake that leads to someone's death is now more vulnerable to a criminal prosecution. As the Crown Prosecution Service has shown over the decision to prosecute both individuals and P&O over the Zeebrugge ferry tragedy, it is more prepared to pursue manslaughter prosecutions after a fatality."

The CPS decided to prosecute Holloway after receiving a report from Ashford CID, compiled because two South-Eastern Electricity Board electricians called to the scene of the tragedy — and who found the source of the problem within 30 minutes — considered the error to be so appallingly elementary.

In finding Holloway guilty, the jury found the crucial test of recklessness proved, despite the fact the electrician, who had pleaded not guilty, had been back to check his work.

Mr Douglas Stewart, a leading litigation solicitor, said the decision to launch a criminal prosecution after Zeebrugge had marked a change in the CPS approach.

"Until recently, people who have suffered a loss have asked solicitors to seek huge sums of money in compensation as a punitive measure against those responsible.

"In fact, the punitive element should come from the Crown Prosecution Service and their decision to prosecute in this and other cases reflects a change in policy which, I believe, has the support of the public at large."

Lawyers pointed out that Holloway, who was originally tried at Maidstone last year but on that occasion the jury was unable to reach a verdict, would not have faced any criminal charge had Mr French not died. "If Mr French had been paralysed for life, there could have been no criminal proceedings. There would have been no lesser criminal charge than manslaughter that could have been brought," one said.

Mr Michael Worsley, QC, for the prosecution, had told the jury the work was done "badly, negligently, and indeed recklessly."

Sentencing Holloway, Mr Justice Boreham said: "Your greatest error was despite at least two visits, maybe three, you failed to detect that fault by wholly inadequate testing by you."

After the hearing, Mr French's mother said: "I always knew he was guilty. I am glad the court has decided that too. The sentence was satisfactory but nothing is going to bring Nicholas back."

Holloway said: "This is a great tragedy for everyone involved. I am considering an appeal."

The Electrical Contractors' Association said the case carried "a tragic warning that people should not rely on 'cowboys' to undertake skilled work for them, even if the price appears more attractive."

Customers should always insist that electricians who undertake work are members of a recognized trade association, it said. "Holloway was not and, unfortunately, there are too many independents operating outside any controls at all," he was due to hear the case.

He then expressed disapproval of the newspaper's "pre-emptive strike" in publishing a front-page story about the settlement, saying his court had been turned into a "publicity machine for pop stars and newspapers".

Nevertheless, his knock for coming up with quotable quotes has endeared him to journalists. His one glaring error — which he promptly rectified — was to set a date for a case involving the then England soccer captain Kevin Keegan for the middle of the 1982 World Cup.

Some signed first editions by Ernest Hemingway fared even better: *In Our Time*, signed "Ernest" and given to the obstetrician who delivered the children of Hemingway's second marriage, tripled its estimate at £2,200.

"The executors' intention was to sell everything today so some people managed bargains," Christie's said. Among these were two black wool jackets at £156 (half the estimate).

Valentino, a beautiful ballet student during the Russian Revolution, fled to America in 1918 with her husband George Schlee. Her business began when New Yorkers started asking where she found the wonderful clothes she was wearing and she confessed they were all her own ideas.

Christie's is to sell the tallest Emile Galle vase ever to appear at auction, in April.



Stephen French: Had stocking feet on a damp floor.



Leading article, page 15

Stylish wardrobe full of bargains

SALE ROOM
by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

New York yesterday at the continuing dispersal of the massive H Bradley Martin book collection. One of only 600 copies of Henry James's *The Bostonians* published by Macmillan in London 104 years ago fetched \$13,200 (£8,250), after being estimated at \$2,000. His *Daisy Miller* of 1879 sold for \$17,600, or £11,000 (estimate £1,000).

Some signed first editions by Ernest Hemingway fared even better: *In Our Time*, signed "Ernest" and given to the obstetrician who delivered the children of Hemingway's second marriage, tripled its estimate at \$25,300.

H Bradley Martin was an obsessive Oxford-educated American collector who died in 1983, having assembled a virtually complete collection of the classic illustrated ornithology books from the 16th century onwards.

Mr Schaufuss was born in Denmark. He had an international reputation as dancer, for a time dancing with the company of which he took

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31 1990

HOME NEWS

3

Victor and vanquished: Editors face their peers

ALAN WELLER

JAMES GRAY



Mr Andrew Neil tells reporters of his delight after winning his libel action yesterday, but Mr Peregrine Worsthorne, right, says the "derisory" damages were a victory for free speech.



Neil: First of Britain's satellite TV generation

By Richard Evans

Making the headlines as well as writing them has never posed a problem for Andrew Ferguson Neil.

When appointed editor of *The Sunday Times* in 1983, he was appearing on television on both sides of the Atlantic. Then, in perhaps the most prophetic statement of his career, he said: "I'm going to have to rein back and concentrate on *The Sunday Times*, but I still expect to pop up and gain the paper publicity from time to time."

And now. Whether suggesting a rift between the Queen and Mrs Thatcher or attempting to discredit the Thames Television film about the Gibraltar IRA killings, his newspaper seems to make the news as much as report it.

A frequent guest on radio and television shows, he has been equally forthcoming on anything from trade unions and the Establishment to satellite television and Wapping. Although extremely bright, quick-witted and eloquent, his journalistic career began on *The*

Sunday Times full-time after launching Sky Television's four satellite channels. What the future holds is unclear — but given his ambitious streak, the headlines are bound to continue to follow him.

Now aged 40, Mr Neil has recently returned to edit *The Sunday Times* full-time after launching Sky Television's four satellite channels. What the future holds is unclear — but given his ambitious streak, the headlines are bound to continue to follow him.

Some journalists go at the world of politics; Mr Neil did it the other way round. His first job after graduating from Glasgow University in 1971 was as political adviser to Mr Peter Walker, then in the Heath Cabinet. His journalistic career began on *The*

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PUBLIC EXPENDITURE WHITE PAPER

Rise of £5.5bn in public spending plans

By Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

The Government's public spending plans, published yesterday in 21 volumes, provide for a £5.5 billion increase in spending next year compared with plans in last year's White Paper.

Health and roads get more, along with British Rail and London Transport, the arts and higher education. Real increases are planned in benefits for the long-term sick and disabled with money also for a new initiative to tackle homelessness.

Among the main points are an increase in National Health Service spending of £2.4 billion, another £420 million over two years for the inner cities, 1,100 extra police officers with 1,200 support staff, £250 million more on higher education, £900 million on the Youth Training Scheme and £1.2 billion

on training the longer-term jobless.

The proposals are already under pressure from a rise in public spending in the present year. Spending this year is expected to be £1.36 billion higher than the £1.68.4 billion planned in the last White Paper, a bigger overshoot than forecast at the time of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's autumn statement.

The rise in spending in 1989-90 underlines the pressures on Mr John Major to raise taxes in the Budget on March 20. As a result of the Government's public spending decisions in the autumn, spending next year is planned to rise as a percentage of total spending in the economy for the first time since 1984-85.

City economists expect the budget surplus this year to turn out at between £3 billion and £10 billion, compared with the original intention of £1.4 billion, partly because of

higher public spending and partly because of lower tax payments reflecting the slowdown in the economy.

In last week's debate on the autumn statement, Mr Major conceded that the surplus would be lower than the revised forecast of £12.5 billion. If the surplus is to remain at a prudent level, some City analysts think tax increases will be necessary.

The main reason for the rise in spending this year since the autumn statement is the £150 million extra on compensating investors in Barlow Clowes and £62 million on Britain's contribution to the stabilization fund for Poland. Local authority spending has also been running ahead of forecast as councils increase their spending ahead of the new regime for capital controls which comes into operation in April.

On the Treasury's new definition, planned spending for next

year is £179 billion, or about £5.5 billion higher than planned previously. Totals for the next two years are £192.3 billion and £203.4 billion, unchanged from the autumn statement.

Department running costs are expected to rise by 9.6 per cent year, significantly above the rate of inflation and in line with recent pay settlements. The Treasury said yesterday that there was no pay assumption behind the figures. The increase was due to expansion of departmental responsibilities in priority areas such as health and the roads.

As a percentage of gross national product, general government expenditure is expected to be about 39 per cent, slightly higher than the 38.75 per cent forecast for the present year. In the next two years, the downward trend resumes with figures of 38.75 per cent and 38.5 per cent.

Included in the yearly spending totals are reserves of £3 billion, £6 billion and £9 billion successively. Privatization proceeds are planned to be £2 billion in each year, although in the present year they are expected to fall short at £4.25 billion.

Capital spending, which is described as public sector asset creation to emphasize the limits of the Treasury definition, is forecast to rise from £1.15 billion last year to £2.29 billion in the present year.

This excludes public projects such as the Dartford bridge, east London, which are being financed by the private sector under a concession.

City analysts said the White Paper in general confirmed the plans set out in the Chancellor's autumn statement, but there was concern about some of the assumptions behind the figures.

Mr Simon Briscoe, of Greenwell蒙古, said: "The assumption

about inflation next year seems credible but the 3 per cent rise in the retail price index the year after is surely an underestimate."

The main purpose of the White Paper in the new form introduced last year is to provide a detailed survey by government departments of spending on different programmes and what the money is being spent on.

The new spending plans are all drawn up on the Treasury's new definition of public spending, which includes local authority spending financed by central government grants but excludes local spending which is financed locally through the community charge.

The idea behind the change is that the government figures should reflect only the things that government can control, leaving the rest to local accountability.

In 1985-86 to £12.36 in 1988-89. The Department of Health says that the target of 70,000 cataract operations this financial year has been exceeded already by 11,740. Both Treasury ministers and the Commons select committee on the Treasury are keen to re-focus interest in the White Paper on value for money.

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The Government's Expenditure Plans 1990-91 to 1992-93 (Stationery Office, Cmnd 1021; published in 21 separate chapters).

Cash to predict global warming

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

ENVIRONMENT

Substantial new funding for environmental research may lead to a breakthrough in predicting the effects of global warming, according to the public expenditure White Paper.

The White Paper says that by 1993, the UK Centre for Climate Change Prediction, now being set up after being announced by Mrs Margaret Thatcher last November, should be able to start work on regional predictions of the greenhouse effect.

Until now, one of the greatest uncertainties about global warming has been that computer models have been able to give only a general, average prediction of the warming of the atmosphere for the world as a whole.

The guess is that, at present rates of carbon dioxide emission from industry, motor vehicles and power stations, world temperatures will increase by between 1.5C and 4.5C by about 2030.

However, big and unknown regional variations may be experienced, making effective planning to take account of changes in rainfall, agricultural productivity and rising sea levels virtually impossible.

The centre is being set up at the Meteorological Office at Bracknell, Berkshire. The White Paper says: "By 1993, the work on climate change should have refined predictions to a position where they may be further developed for regionally specific purposes." Funding for the study will rise from £600,000 this year to £2.7 million in 1990-91, with most of the money going on the establishment of the centre.

It is the biggest rise in a predicted 21 per cent increase in research spending from £36 million this year to £42.3 million in 1992-93 by the Department of the Environment. Other areas of research will include air pollution, environmental economics and the North Sea.

The NCC provision includes funding for its controversial division into English, Scottish and Welsh agencies next year. The department

said last November that most of the extra funding "is intended to provide a direct boost to conservation work".

The National Rivers Authority, which took over the regulatory functions of the former regional water authorities in England and Wales last September, is developing its first corporate plan and so does not have long-term income or expenditure targets.

However, the White Paper shows that in its first full year, the authority is to receive £93.3 million in grant-in-aid to add to the £63.5 million it expects to earn by charging for licences to abstract water and discharge sewage.

Running costs, exclusive of the authority's responsibilities for flood defence, are expected to be £167.5 million. Flood defence expenditure will be a further £10.8 million.

The authority will receive only £6.6 million in receipts from fishing licences, although it intends to spend £1.1 million on the care and maintenance of fisheries.

The seven national park authorities, which are 75 per cent funded by the Government with other costs met by county councils, are to receive a 10 per cent increase in government funding from £9.06 million to £9.97 million next year.

● The body which oversees water bills is expected to double its staff during the next year, according to the White Paper (David Walker writes).

The Office of Water Services, which was created to protect consumers from unjustified increases in water and sewerage bills, now has 46 staff. That will rise to 102 by the end of 1990-91; its budget will rise from £3 million to £5 million.

A big drop in the public cost of the Property Services Agency is also shown. In 1990-91, government outlay on the agency, which is being groomed for privatization, will be £30 million. By 1992-93 the scheduled privatization date – the agency ought to be repaying about £10 million to the Government.

Pressure to increase receipts collected by government agencies also explains how the Government expects the Ordinance Survey to cost a third less in 1992-93 in cash terms, although staff numbers will fall only slightly.

Although spending on the NHS as a whole is to go up by £2.4 billion in 1990-91, health authorities get only an extra £1.16 billion, bringing spending levels to £14.8 billion. That represents a 3.4 per cent rise in real terms, as long as inflation sticks to 5 per cent.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, expects health authorities to find a further £150 million in cost improvement programmes and £25 million in income

generation schemes, boosting the rise to £1.3 billion.

The NHS has calculated that at best health authorities will have £244 million revenue growth money, but once existing debts are clawed back that will drop to £236 million.

If, as they predict, inflation runs at 7 per cent in the next financial year, the authorities could have a £37 million shortfall, according to the

Healthcare Financial Management Association.

The White Paper contains no surprises for the health service, confirming figures announced in the autumn statement. Spending on the NHS in England will increase from £19.9 billion to almost £22 billion next year. It is expected to rise to £23.3 billion in 1991-92 and to £24.4 billion in the next year. Pro-

jected increases after next year provide little extra to implement health service reforms.

This financial year, £35 million was allocated to help meet the preliminary costs of the Government's reforms. A further £300 million – about £180 million revenue and £120 million capital – is to be allocated in 1990-91.

Mr Clarke's decision to spend money on implementing the changes before legislation has been introduced is being contested in the High Court today by a group of consultants led by Professor Harry Keen, of Guy's Hospital.

The White Paper confirms that spending on demand-led family practitioner services will go up by £383 million, an increase of 7.3 per cent in real terms, bringing total resources on primary health care services to nearly £5.4 billion.

Net spending on these services is set to rise to £5.8 billion in 1991-92 and £6.4 billion in 1992-93.

The White Paper shows that prescription, dental and optical charges are expected to bring in £600 million, up by £72 million, nearly double the increase of the previous year.

● Spending on social security will rise from £2.6 billion to £5.6 billion in 1990-91 and to £6.5 billion in 1992-93.

Expenditure on sick and disabled people is expected to rise from £9.5 billion to £13.4 billion in 1992-93. Spending on the unemployed is likely to go up from £4.7 billion to £5.6 billion in 1992-93.

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HEALTH SERVICE

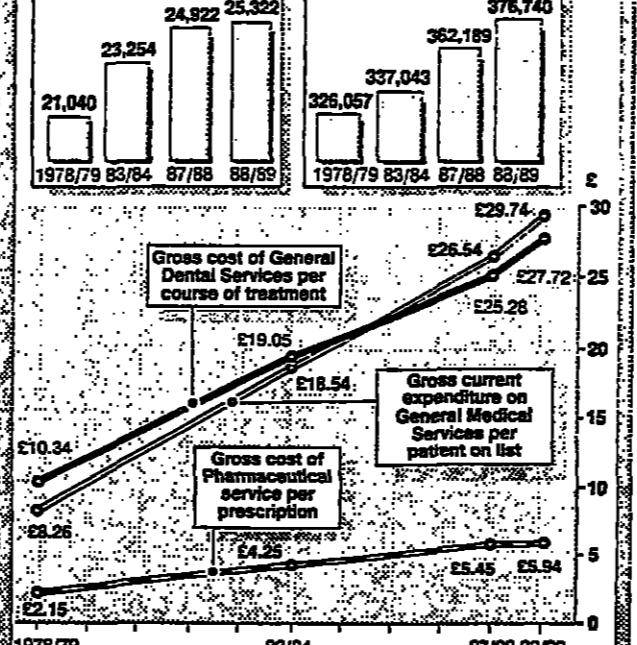
By Jill Sherman
Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities may face financial difficulties if health service pay and prices rise higher than the 5 per cent inflation assumed in the public expenditure White Paper.

The White Paper says that by 1993, the work on climate change should have refined predictions to a position where they may be further developed for regionally specific purposes." Funding for the study will rise from £600,000 this year to £2.7 million in 1990-91, with most of the money going on the establishment of the centre.

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TRANSPORT

Cost of roads to rise £680m

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

Government spending on extending and maintaining the national road network is on target to increase by £680 million over the next few years, bringing overall spending on roads to £1,985 million by 1993.

Of this, £25 million has been designated for an early start to a road construction programme outlined in the *Roads to Prosperity* White Paper published last May, and £40 million to speed up completion of road schemes such as the M40 between Oxford and Birmingham.

Other priorities in the existing programme include the M1-A1 link in the East Midlands, the M66 in Manchester, the A27 Brighton bypass, schemes on the A406 North Circular Road, north London, upgrading of the A1 in Yorkshire, the A13 to London Docklands, and the A11 to Norwich.

Completion of the *Roads to Prosperity* programme will increase the motorway network by 2,700 miles of new and widened roads – mainly in an effort to relieve congestion along key inter-urban routes – at a cost of £14 billion over the next decade.

The expanded roads programme is needed to help minimize the impact of revised traffic forecasts which expect a maximum 47 per cent increase in vehicle numbers by 2,000, a maximum 35 per cent increase by 2010, and a maximum 142 per cent increase by 2025.

It adds that investment is expected to continue increasing from the present level of £674 million in 1989-90, to £1,186 million by 1993. This includes completing the electrification of the east coast mainline between London and Edinburgh, and the introduction of new rolling stock on Network SouthEast.

Demand for London Underground services is expected to show an annual 2 per cent increase over the next few years, and services are expected to increase to meet demand, although the system is likely to remain under considerable strain, particularly during peak periods.

The policy aims of the existing and new roads programmes include the promotion of economic growth by reducing transport costs, the improvement of the environment by removing traffic from towns and villages, enhancing road safety, and preserving past investments in the road network at

minimum cost, the White Paper says.

The Government's determination to press ahead with new roads schemes will be welcomed by the British Road Federation and other pro-road lobby groups.

However, it is likely to be greatest with dismay by environmental organizations, which say that the Department of Transport has failed to appreciate the environmental consequences of increased vehicle emissions.

The White

ing plans

Cost of roads
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TRANSPORT

Judge orders girls to leave school run by religious sect

A Scottish judge yesterday ordered that two young sisters should leave a school run by a religious sect and return to education within the state system, as recommended in reports by an advocate and a psychologist who visited the Kingdom Christian School, Dean Bridge, in Edinburgh's West End.

At the Court of Session in Edinburgh, Lord Prosser said the school did not at present make provision for secondary education. One of the sisters would be going to secondary school next term and the two sisters should be treated similarly.

He granted a court order to the children's father, Mr Robert Allen of Willowbrae, Edinburgh, to prevent his former wife Elizabeth sending their daughters Louise, aged 10, and Jennifer, aged 9, to the school.

At an earlier hearing, it was claimed on Mr Allen's behalf that the school was run on American lines: there were only 11 or 12 pupils and they worked at pigeonholes facing the wall.

It was claimed there was little opportunity for tuition in music or physical education. The school was said to emphasise

size of the "godly" content of every lesson. It was said that Mr Allen believed the school was damaging to his daughters' welfare.

Mrs Allen is said to be a member of a church known as the Christian Centre Ministries, which runs the Kingdom Christian School.

After the Allens divorced in June last year, she moved the girls to the school from Steinhouse Primary.

• A dispute has broken out between left-wing members of England's biggest education authority and their own officials, over plans to withdraw written warnings issued to teachers who took part in unofficial strikes.

Miss Deirdre Wood, chairwoman of the Staff Sub Committee of the Inner London Education Authority, wants all written warnings issued to staff more than 12 months ago to be removed from their files before they are handed over to the 13 inner-London boroughs taking over responsibility for the 1,000 schools on April 1.

The proposal provoked one of the authority's most senior officials, the Education Officer Mr David Mallon, to take the rare step of publicly opposing an elected member.

Firemen move in centre-stage



Firemen fill a 5,000-gallon pool erected on the stage of the Globe Theatre in the West End, London, for Alan Ayckbourn's latest play, *Man of the Moment*. Special supports had to be constructed to hold the pool, which will weigh 38 tons when full.

Security breach at Commons TV studio

By Andrew Pierce and Richard Evans

An internal inquiry has been ordered into a security breach at the BBC's television studios at Westminster which could have threatened the televising of the Commons.

Thieves broke into the studios at Methodist Central Hall at the weekend and escaped with 10 video recorders worth £2,500. Tight security is in place at the studios to protect equipment installed for the televising of Parliament.

Electronic security doors installed to deter intruders failed to repel the thieves, who struck on Saturday, the police believe.

BBC chiefs ordered an urgent investigation to find out how the thieves broke into the technical area in the basement of the building. It was alleged that a security key used by a team of electrical contractors working in the studios last week was missing.

A BBC employee, who declined to be named, said: "This has caused a terrible row. MPs are going to want to know how it can be so easy to pull the plug on Parliament."

A report may be made to the parliamentary committee chaired by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, which is supervising the television experiment.

Rover plant agrees to ban local strikes

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

Rover has signed an agreement amounting to a "no strike" deal covering 8,000 workers at its Cowley plant near Oxford.

The agreement for unions and Rover to accept binding arbitration is seen as the first in the established British motor industry, which is beset with strikes and disruption.

More than 13,000 workers at Ford were laid off without pay yesterday because of unofficial strikes by 550 craftsmen at Halewood, Merseyside, which have disrupted three plants and cost £120 million in lost output.

Rover also faces the threat of a strike at its Longbridge plant in Birmingham, where 1,500 workers in the K-series engine plant have thrown out plans for 24-hour production.

The company said last night that the Cowley agreement covers only internal disputes and would not affect national agreements, such as wage deals for all 24,000 hourly-

paid staff. Mr Ivor Braggins, the Transport and General Workers' Union convenor, said the agreement would apply only to a "limited sphere of local disputes". It will protect the business from local strikes, like the one threatened at Longbridge.

Nissan has a similar agreement, achieved through a single-union deal and on a greenfield site.

Cowley, which has not suffered a serious dispute for six years, is set to become a key production centre with Rover spending £130 million developing a new generation of executive saloons there.

At Ford, national union officials will today face leaders of the striking craftsmen who have defied the company wage deal. Three plants were closed yesterday and 10,000 men in Halewood and Southampton were told to stay at home, while 3,000 at Genk, in Belgium, had to be laid off without pay.

Psychiatrists want to be user-friendly

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Up to a quarter of the adults in Britain may be prone to psychological problems, and women are twice as likely to suffer from depressive illnesses as men, the Royal College of Psychiatrists said yesterday.

The most vulnerable group of women are young mothers with several children, particularly if they do not get adequate support and understanding from their husband or partner.

The college has launched a leaflet, *Help Is At Hand*, which attempts to remove the stigma attached to mental illness, and encourages people suffering from depression to seek psychiatric help.

"We want to make psychiatry more user-friendly. People should not be afraid of us or offended or insulted if their general practitioner suggests they ought to come and see us," Professor Brice Pit, chairman of the college's public education committee, said.

Dr Ruth Scifert, a consultant psychiatrist at Hackney Hospital, east London, said the symptoms of depression could range from loss of confidence, anxiety and sleep disturbance to feelings of guilt and hopelessness, which deterred many sufferers from going to their GP.

Professor Eugene Paykel, of Cambridge University psychiatry department, said: "Depression is at least twice as common in women as in men. The reasons are uncertain."

However, women were more prepared to recognize problems in themselves.

The *Help Is At Hand* leaflet can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to the Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG.

Open University boosting careers

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

The Open University educates more disabled students than all other British universities combined and 70 per cent of its graduates feel their studies have boosted their careers, according to a survey published yesterday.

The survey, coinciding with the university's 21st anniversary, showed that 35 per cent of its graduates had left school at the minimum leaving age, four per cent had no qualifications on entry and 24 per cent had no A levels when they began their studies.

The university announced its 100,000th graduate yesterday: Mrs Brenda Ann Tombs, of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, who received her mathematics and computing degree from Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, at a special ceremony in London.

Mrs Tombs, aged 41, a systems engineer with British Aerospace Dynamics in Stevenage, said the five years of study for her degree was "the best move I ever made", and had resulted in three promotions in six months.

Although most students with the Open University, based in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, were trainee teachers 21 years ago, the proportion has dropped to 17 per cent.

The university has ex-

tended its operations to Belgium, Luxembourg and The Netherlands and is collaborating with other continental institutions with a view to setting up an "Open University of Europe" by the turn of the century.

Links have also been estab-

lished with the newly emerging democracies of eastern Europe. British management courses are on offer in Hungary.

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OVER 50 OFFICES IN 20 COUNTRIES

Sales slump blamed for big fall in value of residential market

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The value of the residential property market fell by 25 per cent last year because of the slump in sales.

There was a 27.8 per cent fall in residential purchases from just over two million in 1988 to 1.5 million last year. Prices, averaging £57,990, were only 3.5 per cent higher.

The Adams Residential Property Index, derived from returns from solicitors regarding 9,481 purchases, and published by James R Adams and Associates, the marketing and research consultants, showed a continuing dissatisfaction with estate agents.

Thirty-nine per cent of buyers last month and 34.3 per cent of buyers during last year bought properties without the services of an agent. The value of the purchases was an estimated £31 billion, 27 per cent of the total market of £87 billion.

New properties were more likely to be bought without an agent, with two thirds bought direct from the builder, the index showed.

It showed there was close competition for a share in the property market, with GA Property Services and Prudential Property Services each holding 3.8 per cent, Halifax Property Services 2.8 per cent, Royal Life Estate Agents 2.7 per cent, Black Horse Property Services 2 per cent, Hambr's 1.9 per cent and Abbey National/Cornerstone and Nation-

wide Anglia on 1.4 per cent. Hambr's had the highest average price at £75,531, followed by Black Horse Property Services on £73,650.

Other big chains had an average price of £60,000 to £70,000, with Halifax Property Services at £57,275. In spite of inroads made by the chains, other agents, mostly independents, accounted for 53 per cent of the market.

Applications to buy council housing in Scotland have slumped by 40 per cent, probably because of high interest rates, according to a Statistical Bulletin from the Scottish Office yesterday. Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Under Secretary of State

at the Scottish Office, said:

"Over 7,400 public sector dwellings were sold to sitting tenants during the three months to the end of June 1989, an increase of over 21 per cent on the corresponding period in 1988."

"While there has been a drop in applications to purchase over the corresponding period in 1988, it must be remembered that the level of applications during the second quarter of 1988 was exceptionally high. The figure for the second quarter of 1989 compared favourably with returns for 1987 when applications to buy exceeded previous annual figures."

More than 171,000, or 16.58

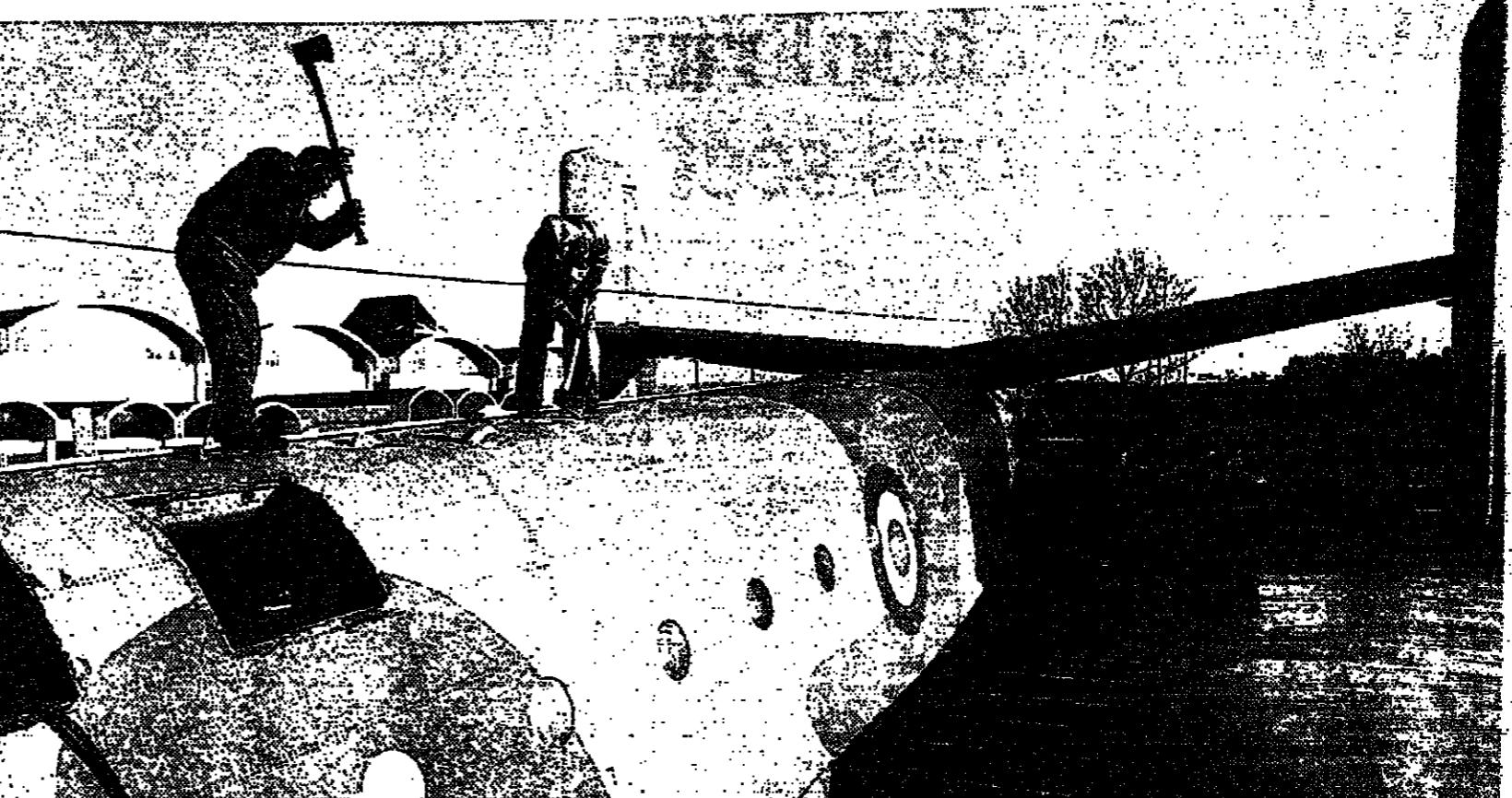
per cent, of public sector homes had been sold by last June. However, New Town and Scottish Homes houses were much more popular than council properties.

Only 13.92 per cent of council homes have been sold, ranging from 31.67 per cent in Badenoch and Strathspey to 7.03 per cent in Motherwell.

However, 29.8 per cent of Scottish Homes tenants and 39.19 per cent of New Town tenants have become owners. The bulletin also showed there were 56,000 houses below the tolerable standard last year, a decrease of 3,000. This reflected the number of properties improved during the year, especially in Glasgow.

RAF museum scraps landmark plane

PETER TREWYN



Work starting yesterday on scrapping the RAF's front line transport aircraft which has been a landmark at RAF Hendon Museum, north-west London. The 1960s aircraft, which has fallen into disrepair and become dangerous, will take three weeks to dismantle. Some parts are to be sold to collectors.

Motor mechanics face revolution in technology

By Kevin Eason
Motoring Correspondent

Only the regular beep of the monitor can be heard as a laser beam scans the body of the patient and a white-coated figure checks the computer screen.

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Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, Under Secretary of State

for the latest hospital television drama but a snapshot of how motorists will have faults cured in their vehicles of the future. As cars become more

complex, with almost every facet controlled by tiny computers, the garage mechanic of 2000 will have a place in society equal to key hospital technicians, according to the Royal Automobile Club.

Mr John Wood, RAC chief engineer, said yesterday that the garage workshop will become a high technology centre, involving lasers and computers and run along the lines of a hospital operating theatre.

Instead of just changing the plugs

and the oil, the "new" mechanic will have to cope with problems posed by the same sort of equipment now being used on airline jets. This could include instrument displays that dispense with normal clock-like dashboards to project speed and fuel consumption onto a screen in the driver's eyeline. The increasing use of technology would change the role of the mechanic, demanding more highly qualified staff.

Mr Wood told motor industry

executives in Norwich: "I believe that by the year 2000, a laser scanner will be designed to pass over a car checking for signs of damage and misalignment. Like a human body scan, it will be able to detect early signs of failure or stress and enable a technician to pinpoint a fault before it is too late. By then, a motor trade technician will be highly respected and terms like mechanic and grease monkey will become redundant in motor industry vocabulary."

MPs in clash over computer evidence

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

Police are increasingly concerned that the Government-backed private member's Bill aimed at cracking down on computer hackers will be unworkable, one of its key sponsors says.

Miss Emma Nicholson, Conservative MP for Devon West and Torridge, said police officers feared offenders may be impossible to prosecute unless computer evidence is made admissible in court.

Miss Nicholson, who agreed to drop her computer misuse Bill last summer in favour of a Law Commission study, said there were also concerns that warrants, needed to search suspects' premises and computers, will be unavailable to officers under the proposed legislation.

She said the problems had emerged because the new Bill, being introduced by Mr Michael Colvin, Conservative MP for Romsey and Waterside, had followed too closely the Law Commission's recommendations.

Miss Nicholson said it was her impression that the commission had been anxious not to alarm the public by giving the police additional powers.

She said it was crucial that the police were given the powers to enforce the law. She was planning amendments to the Bill in time for its second reading on February 9.

Her move has been greeted with surprise and dismay by Mr Colvin. "I have spoken to the police and British Telecom, who provide technical support, and manufacturers who may be called to

widen police powers."

Miss Nicholson: Call to widen police powers.

O'Connor wins damages

Mr Des O'Connor, the entertainer, accepted substantial undisclosed damages at the High Court yesterday in disposal of four libel actions arising from the publication of articles claiming he was facing an investigation for alleged tax evasion. Mr Malcolm Canning, for Mr O'Connor, told Mr Justice Popplewell that articles containing the false allegation appeared in *The Sunday Times* on January 15, 1989 when it repeated an item from another newspaper; in *Today* newspaper on the following day; and in the magazines *Accountancy Age* and *New Accountant*. Mr Andrew Caldecott, for the defendants, said they welcomed the opportunity of publicly withdrawing the allegations made against Mr O'Connor.

Ban extended

Plans to test pregnant women in Yorkshire for Aids, to monitor the extent of the virus, have been put off until April for more discussions and training.

Tie tribute

The first annual award for contribution to society was made yesterday by The Guild of British Tie Makers, Bluesilk Great Britons' Ties went to Dame Vera Lynn, Mr Simon Weston, Mr Norman Tebbit, Sir Richard Attenborough and Viscount Whitelaw.

Priest accused

Anton Mowat, a Roman Catholic priest accused of offences against children in the United States, was yesterday remanded in custody by Bow Street magistrates, central London. He faces extradition to the US.

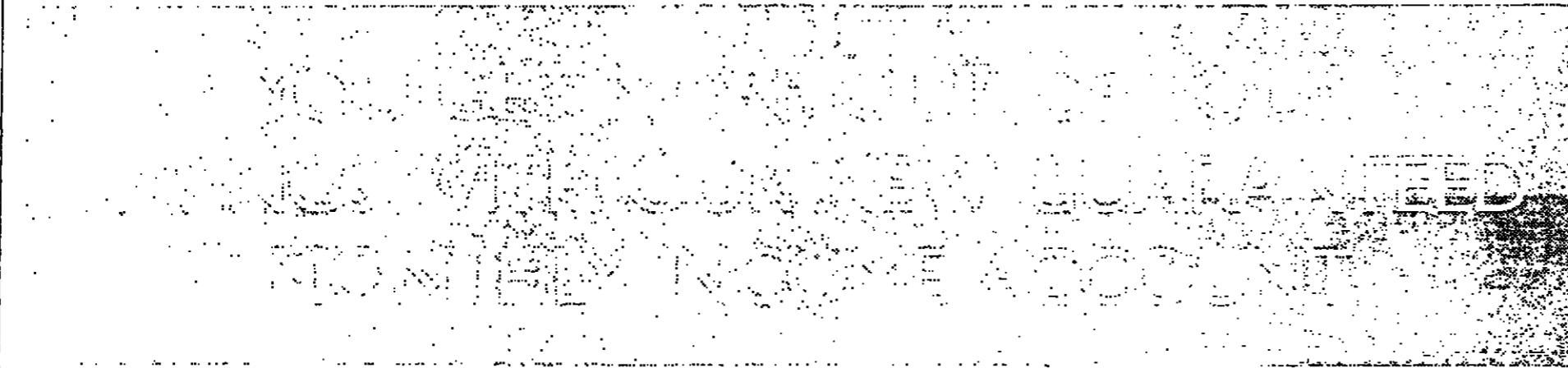
Farmer fined

A farmer who organized an open-air music festival was fined £10,200 yesterday for not providing adequate sanitary facilities and exceeding noise levels. Kevin Crabb of Old Trewoege Farm, Liskeard, Cornwall, pleaded guilty.

Police praised

Ten West Yorkshire policemen have been commended for their investigations into animal rights activists which resulted in two men being jailed.

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CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Allies aim to speed up talks on German unity

From Ian Murray, Bonn, and Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

With East Germany in imminent danger of collapse into chaos, the three Western allies are trying to improve their image in Bonn so that they can help speed up the process of German reunification. German unity has become a race against time.

It is now seen by all four powers, including the Soviet Union, as a way of bringing stability to Europe — provided the involved and difficult necessary negotiations can be successfully launched in time.

Aware that West German leaders have been critical of them for foot-dragging on the road to unity, Britain, France and the United States are now urgently working towards ways of satisfying long-standing demands.

This would help establish a better relationship and improve chances of a successful, quick conclusion to intricate negotiations, which by treaty must be overseen by the allies.

To help create a better atmosphere of trust, the three allies are working hard to agree two things which West Germany has long wanted and campaigned for — the right of Luftwaffe to fly across the inner German border direct to Berlin; and the right of West Berliners to have a direct vote in elections to the Bundestag.

Both would involve diplomatically hazardous talks with the Soviet Union, as the fourth of the powers which still govern Berlin, and experts are now dusting down old treaties to check legal niceties which can be used to make these concessions possible.

What is driving all parties is the general belief that East Germany is on the point of collapse into destabilizing chaos.

This prediction, made by no less an expert than Herr Hans Modrow, the transitional East German prime minister, has forced the Soviet Union now to accept the inevitability of reunification to solve the

country's deep economic and political problems.

President Gorbachov acknowledged as much in summoning Herr Modrow to Moscow yesterday.

"In principle no one puts it in doubt," he told Tass. "Time itself is pressing on this process, giving dynamism to it."

But even with Soviet good-will, senior observers here are far from optimistic that the two Germans can be united in time to stop the ongoing hemorrhage of young people to the West from dangerously weakening the country.

In accepting the concept of a united Germany, President Gorbachov said that the issue could be resolved responsibly

Poland wants seat on Europe council

Brussels — Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Polish Prime Minister, yesterday applied for full membership of the European Council of Europe, at the same time warning the West that old-style communists in Eastern Europe were still a powerful force and could use the current chaos to bring reform (Michael Binyon writes).

He told the council in Strasbourg that Poland wanted to be a full member because "we wish to share in promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms".

by the wartime allies "but not on the streets".

The Western allies have always been ready to join in talks leading to the peaceful unification of a democratic Germany.

However, as was made plain in the final statement of the Strasbourg European summit last month, this must happen "through a global and balanced approach."

In Mrs Thatcher's view this means that the process "must come at a rate which takes account of other obligations

and which gives us time to work things out otherwise we could destabilise everything".

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, flew to East Germany last week with an offer of British help and knowledge to establish democracy and pluralism and to try to reassure people that they were being given support in the west.

None of this, however, materially helped to improve living standards. "I am not optimistic they are getting the feeling that things are going to get any better," one senior source here said this week.

The consequence is the continuing exodus at the rate of nearly 2,000 a day, making the old joke about Germany being renamed on the soil of West Germany less and less funny. Hence the need for a quick solution.

But even the most optimistic knowledgeable estimates suggest that it will all be a lengthy process. For reunification to occur it will have to be through the "self-determination" of the German people themselves.

Nobody has yet even defined how that can be done — whether through a plebiscite, a decision of a democratically elected parliament or some other democratic system. Nor is it clear whether West Germany itself needs to take some kind of vote on the issue, given that reunification is written into the country's basic law.

If the Germans themselves decide that reunification is the answer to the German question, there will still have to be a substantial international negotiation. The allies will have to be closely involved and, ultimately, give their consent to the union.

"Unless we hurry, East Germany will collapse before long unification will just not be a relevant question," said one Western source.

However, the declaration of

support by President Gorbachov for reunification yesterday launched East Germany's election campaign on the note which was always going to dominate it — if somewhat earlier than had been planned. The Kremlin's *volejce* gave a fillip to reunification hopes, which continue to spread through East Germany, and also tell inconveniences for the beleaguered communist party on the day that it publicly urged caution in the heated debate.

The glaring gap between Moscow's new line of *laissez-faire* and the persistent anxiety of the Socialist Unity (communist) Party has never been clearer than it was yesterday.

At the very hour when President Gorbachov was declaring self-determination a German right, Herr Jochen Willerding, the Communist Party's spokesman on international affairs, was announcing to the East Berlin press that the party's election programme included "the maintenance of two German states and the social, political and cultural identity and independence of the GDR".

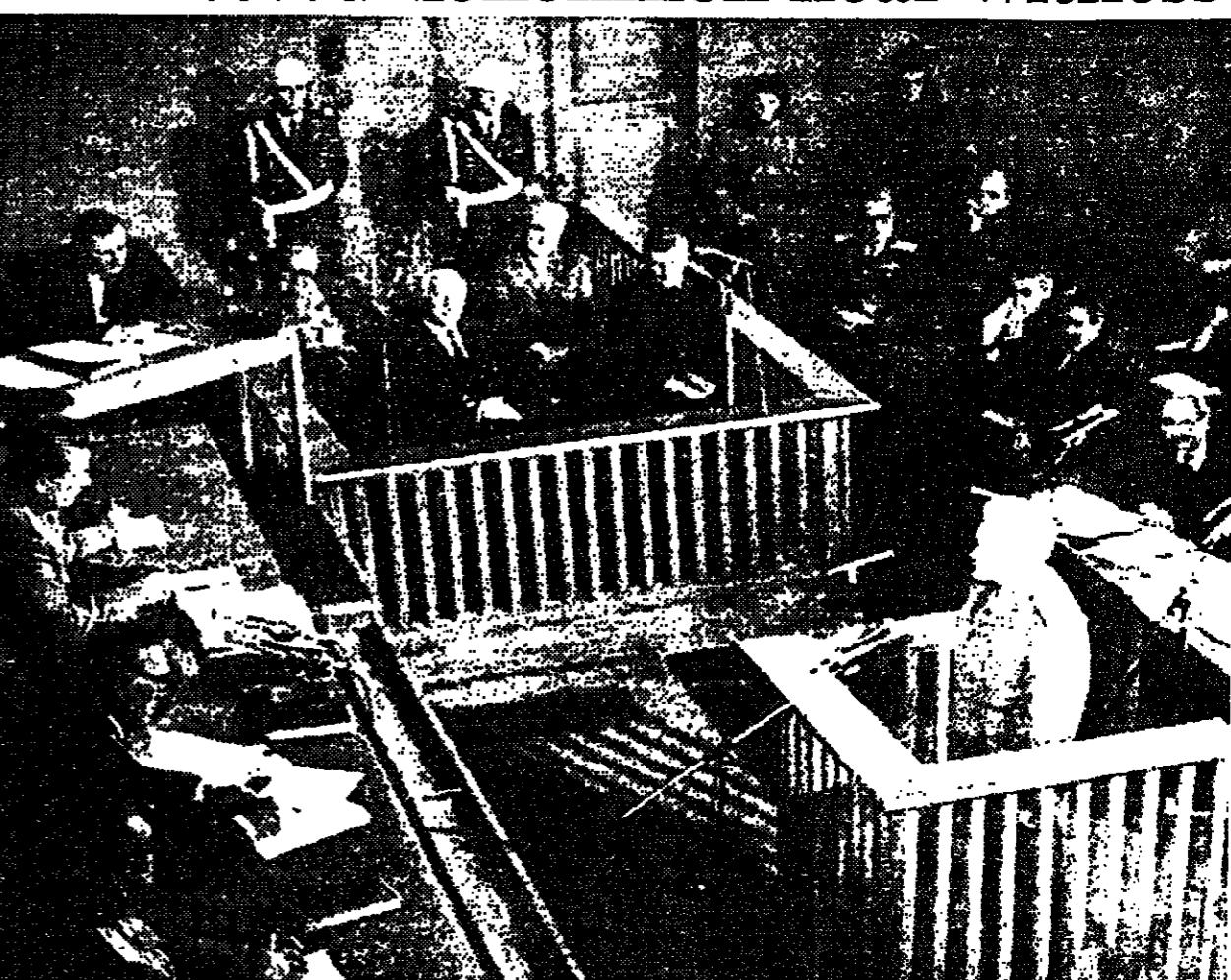
The East German communist party is now the only mainstream party contending the March elections to oppose reunification in the foreseeable future. With the people of Dresden and Leipzig taking to the streets by the hundred thousand to demand speedy unity, the party is evidently out of step with the wishes of most East Germans.

The only remaining difference on the issue between the country's centre-left parties, such as New Forum and the Social Democratic Party, and their counterparts on the right — the Christian Democrats and Democratic Awakening — is the intended length of the confederation period that might lead up to reunification.

"Unless we hurry, East Germany will collapse before long unification will just not be a relevant question," said one Western source.

Leading article, page 15

Ceausescu henchmen hear witness



A Romanian army colonel giving evidence yesterday in Bucharest at the trial for genocide of four of the deposed Nicolae Ceausescu's close collaborators. The hearing was adjourned to allow prosecution and defence to call more witnesses.

Ailing ex-leader released from prison

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

Herr Erich Honecker, East Germany's ailing former leader, was released from jail yesterday after a renewed appeal by his doctor that he was unfit to stay there.

A local judge decided that Herr Honecker, who is recovering from an operation for kidney cancer, should be released from the prison to which he was sent on Monday "on humane grounds".

He will now await trial for treason, corruption and abuse of office at his home. Herr Hans-Jürgen Joseph, the East German Public Prosecutor, said last night that he would

appeal against the move. The indecision over the treatment of the former leader demonstrates the confusion which now reigns within East Germany's justice apparatus.

Notably absent from the charges is the arms-running which was revealed to have taken place from the port of Rostock. While it is widely believed that Herr Honecker

oversaw the business personally, no evidence has yet been produced. The man who was in charge of the export company involved, Herr Alexander Schalck-Golodowski, has disappeared after his release from a West Berlin jail.

The Public Prosecutor's Office said yesterday that Herr Honecker would stand trial in March. A date has not yet been set because of worries that it could hinder the smooth running of the elections that month. Herr Honecker was sent to a new house in the East Berlin suburb of Pankow, accompanied by a guard.

He and his wife, Margot, the former Education Minister, were last week evicted from their home in the exclusive compound of Wandlitz, now taken over by the Health Ministry for a sanatorium.

US envoy says Nato prepared to accept Europe troop reductions

From Michael Binyon
Brussels

America's Nato allies understood the budget pressures on the Bush Administration and were quite ready to accept US defence cuts and the closing of bases in Europe, Mr William Taft, the US Ambassador to Nato, said yesterday.

But he gave a veiled warning that countries paying far less per head for defence than the US would come under strong pressure to bear a larger share of the Nato budget, and not to break ranks by unilaterally cutting spending and forces before the conclusion of a Convention Forces in Europe (CFE) agreement later this year.

Mr Taft said allied governments had been urging Washington to deal with its deficit for some time.

American defence spending was still about 25 per cent of the federal budget, and the reductions would not signal any reduction in the US commitment to the alliance.

The US would continue to fulfil its force goals, and while the cuts were significant, they were still only 20 per cent of the largest European defence programme.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Taft, who was Deputy Defence Secretary in the Reagan Administration, emphasized the Bush Administration's commitment to maintaining troops in Europe as long as they were requested by the allies.

American troop strength would be adjusted only in consultation with the allies, despite domestic budgetary and congressional pres-

sures. "That is our commitment. We think it is very important to get the CFE," he said.

He insisted that the Vienna negotiations were the only reliable way to ensure that Warsaw Pact reductions were irreversible.

Despite promises of Soviet troop cuts in Eastern Europe, these had not yet occurred. It would be a "terrible mistake" if Nato governments thought that they did not need CFE and began unilateral reductions.

Mr Taft said: "The CFE offers monitoring, verification procedures, notification procedures — a whole structure which would make an immense contribution to stability on the continent."

He was careful not to criticize Belgium and other smaller Nato members which have already

suggested cutting forces because of the changing East-West situation. But he noted pointedly that countries bearing the largest burdens were less insistent on cuts, and suggested that some countries had already taken their "peace dividend".

Burden-sharing would continue to be a divisive issue in the alliance, he believed, even at a time of general reductions.

Some countries, such as the US, were now paying three times as much for defence per head as others.

"The reduction exercise, if it comes, should take into account the current contributions of the different allies, and make an effort to improve the balance."

The US defence reductions had been largely expected by allied

governments, and were preceded by close consultations. Mr Taft believed there was still strong public support, even in West Germany, for a strong US presence in Europe, despite the rapidly changing situation.

Mr Taft did not see immediate pressure for further cuts, although he agreed there was a general public perception that arms control negotiations were out of step with political developments in Europe.

He did not think there was a danger that rapid Soviet troop withdrawals from Eastern Europe would increase pressure in Western Europe for further US cuts below the 275,000 proposed in the CFE talks.

There were "downward pressures" on all Nato members'

defence budgets. But Mr Taft hoped that any opportunities for reductions would be analyzed within the alliance and the pace and course could be agreed.

The ambassador was sceptical of the assertion, made by Mrs Thatcher among others, that the Warsaw Pact was like Nato, an important pillar of stability in Europe and was vital to bloc-to-bloc arms talks.

It was indeed more "convenient" for arms negotiators to have a single bloc to deal with. But the West would have to adapt to a different way of negotiating if the Warsaw Pact changed to a more democratic structure.

But any change was up to its members to decide; the West should not try to interfere.

And Mr Taft said 40 years of

history suggested that much had to change before the Warsaw Pact could be seen as an equivalent of Nato.

He said that, in the new emphasis on a political role, Nato would naturally overlap with some of the existing bodies and institutions in Europe — such as the European Community — and the US.

But Nato would still perform the vital and unique function of drawing together Europe and North America on matters of common interest.

And to the sceptics of Nato's future role, Mr Taft declared: "We can't achieve our own security without the alliance, and I think the European understanding of that is the same."

Army's role, page 14

Communist light dims in Honecker's town

From Our Own Correspondent, Wiebelskirchen, Saarland

Just over two years ago the local communists here turned out to welcome their most famous former citizen, Herr Erich Honecker, hopeful that this nostalgic visit to his home town would revive support for their crumbling cause.

Today, however, Herr Honecker is disgraced and the collapse of the communist party he led in East Germany has virtually destroyed the party here. In the elections on Sunday in Saarland, the local communists managed to win only 0.2 per cent of the vote.

That was twice as good as the average communist turnout in the Saar, but showed that two out of every three party voters had abandoned it

since the last state election five years ago. Then 233 people voted communist, just over 5 per cent of the total cast.

On Sunday, the figure dropped to 74 and virtually all of those were elderly people, with memories of the party's heyday in the immediate post-war period.

Frau Gertrud Hoppschäfer, aged 71, is sad and confused. Until a few months ago she was proud to be pointed out as Herr Honecker's sister. She remembered with pride that Herr Oskar Lafontaine, the outright winner for the Social Democrats in Sunday's elections, had described her brother two years ago as the most famous local boy.

Now she prefers to stay in her home in Kuchenberg Strasse, near its junction with Karl Marx Strasse, rather than the past when her miner father taught his family about communism.

It is still easy to see where those political beliefs came from. The giant wheel above the mine shaft still looms over the town. Smoke from the factory chimneys of the Saar valley drift across it. The hills are often just huge black mounds of pit waste. The Saarland, struggling to restructure its heavy industry, is still one of West Germany's unemployment black spots.

However, 70 years ago, the Saarland dirt was even more

fertile ground for the growth of communism. Now, along with its local hero and inspiration, the party has also lost its paymaster. With only tiny support nationwide, it does not qualify for federal cash and has survived largely with the help of an estimated DM 23 million (£7 million) a year from East Germany.

The cash flow has now stopped.

Nationally and locally, the party has split between the reformers and the old guard, who are few. Herr Werner Zins, the leader of the local party band in which the young Honecker played the drum, recently died of cancer and was buried near the black

stone monument to Herr Honecker's father in the churchyard. The others, like Frau Hoppschäfer, are scarcely active.

The younger reformists, headed by Herr Artur Moses, aged 42, are struggling to drag the party out of the shadow of Herr Honecker and trying at the same time to find a cause which makes the party different from the radical Social Democrats or the Greens.

A similar split has opened up nationally, with the estimated national party membership of 35,000 a year ago, fragmented with a rump of no more than 10,000 "reformers" trying to live down the shameful Honecker legacy.

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Communists offer olive branch to Sofia opposition

From Ernest Beck, Sofia, Bulgaria

Faced with a deteriorating economy, labour unrest and widespread public mistrust, Mr Petar Mladenov, the General Secretary of the ruling Bulgarian Communist Party, yesterday made a cautious appeal to the opposition to form a coalition transitional government before multiparty elections due in May.

Speaking to the opening session of an extraordinary party congress, Mr Mladenov said the Communists were ready to share power with "any party if it was serious about ending the country's profound economic and political crisis."

Mr Peter Beron, a leader of the United Democratic Front, an opposition umbrella group, said that the proposal was a trap to deceive the population and to neutralize the opposition. "They still control all the levers of government and the machinery of decision-making," he said. "They want to use us as window-dressing to help repair a crumbling economy, to cool down discontent and to blunt our effectiveness. We will not solve their problems for them."

The olive branch to the opposition, to be presented at the round-table talks, is seen as a desperate move to accommodate the opposition's popularity, and to forestall proposals for a transitional government excluding the Communists.

In a further attempt to regain public confidence, Mr Mladenov's address to the Congress contained a scathing attack on Mr Todor Zhivkov, the discredited former leader.

He described Mr Zhivkov

as "an egoist and a maniac with no intellectual capabilities", whose totalitarian regime had corrupted the party and the state.

Mr Mladenov, who was Mr Zhivkov's Foreign Minister for 18 years, claimed to have opposed his rule long before he engineered Mr Zhivkov's downfall in November.

"Let us praise all those Communist Party members who took risks to oppose this tyrant," he said.

While Mr Mladenov castigated the former leader and called for a complete "de-Stalinization" of the party and state.

However, Mr Mladenov who is party leader as well as Bulgaria's President, said he would abandon one post if re-elected because the Communists support a complete separation of party and state.

The Communists are also promising a purge of the remnants of the Zhivkov era and a thorough democratization of the party.

The party's proposed economic policy remains vague. It calls for "socially-oriented market principles", different forms of ownership and a large role for the state in economic life, all of which Mr Mladenov claims is not ideological deviation, but "logical Marxist conclusions".

The party's goal was to create a democratic and humane socialism, he said.

He mocked unnamed forces in the party who proposed renouncing socialism and introducing private property and capitalism, saying such a move would cause a "social cataclysm and anarchy".

The hardline speech was a

warning to a renegade liberal wing, known as the Alternative Socialists, who would like the party to dissociate itself from Marxist thinking while retaining principles of social democracy.

The Alternative Socialists say they will form their own party if their platform is rejected at the congress.

The Communist Party has agreed to give up its legally guaranteed leading role and to embrace a multi-party democracy based on free elections. Until now, it has consistently refused to abandon its tight grip on all aspects of public life until after elections.

Mr Mladenov, Communists might agree to share power.

an end to corruption and nepotism, he declared that the party would still be based on "essential Marxist thinking and scientific socialism".

The party's goal was to

create a democratic and humane socialism, he said.

He mocked unnamed forces in the party who proposed renouncing socialism and introducing private property and capitalism, saying such a move would cause a "social cataclysm and anarchy".

The hardline speech was a

Masked face of Soviet response to Azerbaijan's ethnic tension



Moscow's special KGB troops, given a sinister appearance by their face masks, and with automatic rifles, patrolling in the vicinity of the Azerbaijani capital, Baku, yesterday.

Kremlin ready to support unofficial talks

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

A senior Soviet official said yesterday that if unofficial peace talks between the two warring republics in the Transcaucasus brought a positive result, Moscow would support them.

It was also revealed that the Communist Party leadership in Moscow has set up a special Central Committee department to examine relations with minority nationalities in the Soviet Union, a move which indicates the depth of Kremlin concern.

Mr Vyacheslav Mikhailov, who is deputy head of the new department, told journalists that he knew nothing about the talks.

Representatives of the Popular Front movements of Azerbaijan and Armenia are due to start talks in Riga, the Latvian capital, tomorrow, under the auspices of the Baltic Council. Mr Mikhailov said that he had spent the past three weeks in the Transcaucasus examining the situation and he questioned the ban on foreign journalists visiting Baku, the Azerbaijani capital, suggesting that the city might soon be opened.

Giving a day-by-day account of how Soviet troops

had come to launch their armed assault on Baku — the first such account to have been given by any high-level Communist Party official — Mr Mikhailov emphasized what he saw as the subversive nature of the Azerbaijani Popular Front organization.

He said that the front had been taken over by "extreme left and even terrorist elements" which had forced people to join their move-

ment. He explained the desertion of nearly 20,000 people from the Communist Party and the burning of party cards as actions taken under duress.

He claimed that when the army entered Baku, the Popular Front had not only seized control of many local government and party offices, but had taken over the television station, summoned all Azerbaijanis to arms in an attempt to regain the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh by force and "smashed" Azerbaijan's border with Iran.

He also insisted that on the night of the assault, the first shots had been fired by the nationalists and the first casualties had been Soviet soldiers.

Although his account was punctuated with expressions of concern to preserve life and end bloodshed, it seemed to support the view of the military action given by the Defence Minister, General Dmitri Yazov — who said that military action was mounted to crush the nationalist movement — rather than that of the Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, who has insisted that its sole purpose was to save lives.

Given Mr Mikhailov's position, it is likely that his version of events will form the basis of the Communist Party leaders' assessment of what happened in Azerbaijan.

In Baku, the situation was reported to be quiet, but another 100 people were said to have been detained overnight and trains with food and fuel supplies were still unable to reach the Armenian capital, Yerevan.

Moldavian nationalism

Saint inspires a dream

From Susan Simpson, Kishinev

Every evening dozens of radicals make the pilgrimage to the statue here of Stefan the Great, the sixteenth-century Moldavian ruler, to string up banners, light candles and argue fiercely about the issues of the day.

Since the Romanian revolution last month, the talk beside Stefan's cloaked stone figure has been dominated by the question of reunification with Romania. "With God's help, if we struggle, it will happen by the end of the year," Mr Dimitri Runyan, aged 82, said quietly. As he finished speaking, the crowd around him noisily agreed.

The upheaval in Romania, Moldavia's western neighbour, added a new dimension to the nationalist fervour which swept this tiny republic of four million people last year.

Moldavia was carved out largely of Romanian territory. In 1940 Stalin annexed the region, known as Bessarabia, in an act sanctioned by the Nazi-Soviet pact signed on the eve of the Second World War.

The Soviet authorities have since fostered the idea that the peoples of Romania and Moldavia are different.

But the restless radicals at Stefan's statue in the heart of Moldavia's capital insist that Moldavians and Romanians share a history, a language and, they hope, a future.

"You can say we have been divided," said Mrs Maya Tsuratashvili, aged 30, her face looking solemn in the flickering light of the candles. "Our relatives live there (in Romania) and we live here. We belong together."

Mr Yevgeni Slobodan dismisses such statements as "emotionalism". Mr Slobodan, aged 48, is the Communist

Party's ideology chief in Moldavia. The calls for reunification have clearly put the leadership of the republic on the defensive, but Mr Slobodan counters them skilfully.

"Recently I met with intellectuals," he said. "We discussed the values of dignity and pride."

"We agreed that we should bow neither to Moscow or Bucharest."

Mr Slobodan is one of the progressive new party leaders installed in the Moldavian Government last year after violent disturbances rocked Kishinev.

On November 7, the republic's traditional parade to commemorate the 1917 Revolution was disrupted by protesters. The police arrested about 20 people.

Three days later, thousands of people stormed the Interior Ministry building in the city, throwing stones and petrol bombs and demanding the release of the detainees. The police responded with tear-gas and water-cannon. On November 16, the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee dismissed Mr Semon Grossu, the party chief, and replaced him with Mr Pyotr Luchinsky.

Mr Luchinsky moved fast in an attempt to soothe a troubled republic. He admitted that the Moldavian party had been slow to embrace reform and had thereby fuelled tensions. He opened a dialogue with various groups, including the republic's mass movement, the Popular Front.

"It's not just that the Communist Party has abandoned us," said Mr Anatoli Listysh, aged 50, the leader of a non-Moldavian group, Unity.

"It is the central Government in Moscow, too."

"If they had not shown

confusion, if they had been able to assess the dramatic situation of the Russian-speaking population, then they would have been able to take appropriate measures to avoid a confrontation."

Kosovo guerrilla war fear

From Dessa Trevisan
Belgrade

The situation in Yugoslavia's protest-hit Kosovo took a dramatic turn for the worse yesterday, increasing fears of inter-communal clashes, when mobs of thousands of Christian Serbs and Muslim Albanians angrily faced each other across a cordon of riot police in the village of Mogile, about 25 miles south of Pristina, the region's capital.

In many other parts of Kosovo, in defiance of government warnings, thousands of Albanians stopped work to stage fresh demonstrations against police killings. In several villages demonstrators put up road blocks, often surrounding police, who had to be rescued by helicopter.

Now, however, the unrest is calling into question whether Yugoslavia can function at all, especially with the republics even more divided than before,

witnesses said. "real guerrilla warfare is being waged".

Mr Ante Markovic, Yugoslavia's Prime Minister, has sent Mr Zivko Peri, his deputy, and General Petar Gracanin, the Internal Minister, to the region as it is clear that the liberal reforms he introduced a month ago are in jeopardy.

The unrest, which has continued for a week — claiming at least 16 lives — shows no signs of abating. It has come at a time when Yugoslavia seemed to have reached consensus on Mr Markovic's programme, leading to hopes that the country could solve its many problems.

Now, however, the unrest is calling into question whether Yugoslavia can function at all, especially with the republics even more divided than before,

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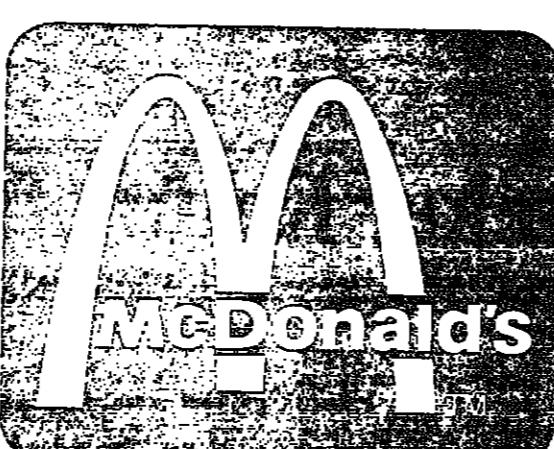
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Bush budget under attack on deficit and defence fronts

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

They are calling it a "Rip Van Winkle" budget, a "Play It Again Sam" budget, and a "take-two-aspirin-and-see-me-in-the-morning" budget.

On Capitol Hill, no fanfare of trumpets has greeted President Bush's first full-scale effort at steering the world's largest economy. Rather, it has evoked muted drumbeats portending nine months of bitter wrangling.

Democrats, the media and some Republicans have levelled two main charges against the 1,269-page document, the President issued on Monday.

It was not a serious attempt to solve America's chronic budget deficit problem, they contend. Moreover, although domestic problems were crying out for money, the defence budget seemed to ignore the fact that the Cold War had ended.

"At a time when we need bold leadership, what we have here is another slide-by-budget," said Mr Leon Panetta, chairman of the House Budget Committee, and therefore a key figure in the forthcoming struggle.

"This budget aims low and shoots even lower," said Mr James Sasser, his Senate counterpart. It was as "cold as leftovers and warmed-over Reagan".

The budget claims that the deficit will be reduced from a projected \$128 billion (£76.2 billion) this year to \$63.1 billion (£37.6 billion) in 1991, just inside the \$64 billion limit required by deficit reduction legislation.

Working on the theory that if spending is restrained the economy can outgrow the deficit, it insists the budget will be balanced by 1993. Democrats counter that the

\$63.1 billion figure is reached through unacceptable spending cuts on programmes such as Medicare, bogus revenue-raising measures such as the President's cherished capital-gains-tax cut, and, most important, on such unjustifiably optimistic economic assumptions as 3.3 per cent growth in 1991 and a 2 per cent fall in interest rates.

The media is echoing many of the Democrats' criticisms. *The New York Times* declared the unmodified defence budget a "monumental missed opportunity".

Senator Sasser predicts "a long, divisive and potentially paralysing debate".

Early last year Congress and the White House reached a tentative budget agreement which later collapsed amid acrimony, but there is no prospect of even a preliminary agreement this year.

Mr Richard Darman, the White House budget director, commented: "I think we will see partisan posturing, which is natural... After that I hope we will get down to constructive work." He pledged to try working with Congress, saying: "I'm going to be charming" Darman again.

Even Republican congressmen were muted in their support for the budget and some were openly critical. Mr Mark Hatfield, the senior Republican on the Senate Appropriations Committee, said the modest defence cut had "not gone far enough".

Failure to agree a budget by October would trigger automatic across-the-board spending cuts.

That crude and indiscriminate device was originally designed as the ultimate deterrent to economic paralysis. As Congress and the White House annually display their chronic inability to tackle the deficit they increasingly see it as the easy way out.

Appeal for airport curbs



A Japanese farmer kneeling at the feet of Mr Takami Eto, the Transport Minister, in a plea yesterday to stop the expansion of Tokyo International Airport at Narita, east of the capital.

De Klerk faces mass protest on keynote speech

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

South African police have warned that they may be forced to disperse anti-apartheid demonstrators planned for Cape Town this week, and have advised the public to stay away for their own safety.

The threat of violent confrontations before and during the opening of Parliament by President de Klerk in the city on Friday coincides with the growing strife surrounding the rebel England cricket tour.

Despite efforts by both opponents and organizers of the tour to keep the protests peaceful, police firing tear gas clashed with stone-throwing demonstrators in a black township outside Bloemfontein, South Africa's judicial capital, shortly before play began there yesterday.

A police spokesman said 45 people were arrested after a large crowd had gathered illegally. The National Sports Council, which is orchestrating opposition to the tour, claimed that more than 200 people had been arrested and 30 injured.

The chief magistrate of Bloemfontein later authorized a peaceful demonstration at the cricket ground and protesters began assembling during the lunch break.

Dr Ali Bacher, the managing director of the South African Cricket Union, said: "From the police and cricketing side, everything will be done to show the utmost restraint, and to ensure that cricket can be played without interruption."

The main thrust of anti-apartheid activity this week is planned for Cape Town, where mass organizations have vowed to stage protest marches, in defiance of the emergency regulations, to coincide with the opening of Parliament. The United Dem-

ocratic Front, a surrogate of the banned African National Congress, has obtained the city council's permission for two marches, but has refused to apply for judicial authorization as required by law.

Miss Cheryl Carolus, a front official, said peaceful assembly was constitutional right and not a presidential privilege. "We are on the threshold of a new era. The pace will not be set by Mr de Klerk, but by the people of South Africa," she added.

However, a senior police spokesman said the police would have no discretion to allow the marches to proceed unless permission had been granted by the Minister of Justice or a magistrate.

The first march, from a Methodist church to the central police headquarters, is planned for today to protest against the repression of previous demonstrations.

Another organization has applied for permission to march to the President's official residence tomorrow to demand a judicial commission of inquiry into allegations that police "death squads" have murdered anti-apartheid activists.

The final event, planned to begin as Mr de Klerk addresses the opening session of Parliament, is billed as the climax to a week of demands. A principal demand will be the immediate release of Nelson Mandela, the veteran ANC leader.

The organizers are also demanding the dissolution of the bicameral Parliament, from which blacks are excluded.

In his speech, Mr de Klerk is expected to announce plans for lifting some provisions of the state of emergency, and to reaffirm his intention to free Mandela in the near future.

Tokyo ruling party ready to ditch caretaker Kaifu after election

From Joe Joseph
Tokyo

The Liberal Democrats in Japan seem to have become so confident of continuing their 35-year rule after the general election next month that Mr Toshiki Kaifu, who has been regarded as no more than a stop-gap Prime Minister, may be discarded immediately afterwards.

Mr Shintaro Abe, one of the leaders of the party establishment, seems already to be practising his acceptance speech.

Mr Kaifu has looked more and more uncomfortable in recent weeks. His treatment by the Liberal Democratic Party's hierarchy has looked more and more

shabby. Word is being spread that with Japan-US relations so prickly and with so much still to be negotiated with Washington on trade and market access, Tokyo needs a heavyweight at the helm.

At the same time the Government, which lost control of the upper house in elections last summer in the wake of the Recruit bribery scandal, needs a skilled backroom powerbroker to get opposition parties to allow government legislation through the second chamber. Mr Kaifu has no experience in this peculiarly Japanese political art form.

Insiders say that the timing of Mr Kaifu's departure is all that remains to be decided, although

they feel it is unlikely that he will be representing Japan at this summer's annual summit of world leaders.

Mr Kaifu had known his tenure would last only until the party elite had served its penance for the Recruit fiasco. But he had hoped that if he could deliver a majority for the Government in next month's lower-house polls, he would be rewarded with a few additional months in the post.

Instead, the Liberal Democrat elders seem to have read encouraging opinion polls that give the party a strong lead over the opposition Socialists, as a sign that voters have forgave them for Recruit.

Visitors to the party's headquarters in Moscow earlier this month, upstaging Mr Kaifu, who was travelling through Eastern Europe.

Cabinet can once again be handed round the party's factions like an elaborate game of pass-the-parcel.

Mr Abe, aged 65, a former Foreign Minister, had been next in line to succeed Mr Noboru Takeshita as Prime Minister when the Recruit scandal forced a change of plan. Mr Takeshita, who quit over the affair, shoehorned Mr Sozou Uno into the job. When Mr Uno tumbled after the press rumoured his taste for bar girls, the clean but lightweight Mr Kaifu was brought in.

Mr Takeshita, who has ruled Japan by remote control since his resignation last summer, has been making light of Mr Kaifu's longevity. He made sure that Mr Abe

but to step down. Having glimpsed life at the top, the amiable Mr Kaifu may not be that reluctant to depart.

Most cruelly, Mr Kaifu was not even allowed to pick the election date, a Prime Minister's prerogative. Mr Takeshita obliged here as well.

With the help of a Chinese calendar, Mr Takeshita picked Sunday, February 18, a "lucky" day. These are believed to be the luckiest kind of days in the Chinese calendar and are commonly picked by Japanese for weddings, house-moving, building, and journeys.

This is certain to be the election day, though it will not be announced until Saturday.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Pinochet plotters escape from jail

Santiago (Reuters) — Fifty Chilean prisoners, several of whom were involved in an attempt on the life of President Pinochet three years ago, broke out of a jail in central Santiago before dawn yesterday through a 50-yard tunnel which came out inside a railway yard, the prison service said in a statement. A spokesman added that most of the escapees were "subversives", the term used by the Government to describe left-wing guerrillas.

A man claiming to represent a political prisoners' organization said in telephone calls to radio stations that the escape was part of a campaign to demand freedom for all the so-called political detainees. The Government denies that Chile has any political prisoners, but human-rights lawyers estimate there are more than 450 people in jail on politically related charges.

Security chief resigns

Buenos Aires — The intelligence chief in Argentina has resigned, joining the Defence Minister, the Central Bank chairman, and the press secretary in leaving the government of President Menem (Michael Solty writes). The resignation of Señor Juan Bautista Yofre on Monday follows a government bugging scandal, but the two events are not directly related. Señor Yofre was seen as an obstacle to co-operation with the opposition and had lost faith in his own agency. His relationship with a blonde actress was also not perceived as befitting an intelligence chief.

Beirut tensions grow

West Beirut — Gunmen in east Beirut yesterday blasted portraits of General Michel Aoun, the rebel Christian leader, with rocket-propelled grenades, according to witnesses, increasing fears of violence between Christian factions (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes). The attacks emphasized the deeply divisive tensions between General Aoun and the Christian Phalangist "Lebanese Forces" militia of Mr Samir Geagea, over the legality of President Hrawi's Syrian-backed Government. After the attack the Army took control of two east Beirut Phalangist strongholds.

Oil-spill trial begins

New York — The selection of a jury was set to begin last night in Anchorage at the trial of Mr Joseph Hazelwood, captain of the Exxon Valdez supertanker, which spilled nearly 11 million gallons of oil off Alaska last March (James Bone writes). Mr Hazelwood faces up to seven years in jail and a fine of \$60,000 (£36,000) on charges of criminal mischief, operating a vessel while intoxicated, reckless endangerment and negligent discharge of oil. One of the key issues is whether the former skipper can benefit from an obscure law granting immunity to people who report oil spills.

Gas leak injures 20

Lisbon — Twenty people were injured when 3½ tonnes of toxic chlorine gas escaped into the atmosphere at the Caima cellulose plant on Monday afternoon near the town of Constância, in central Portugal (Martha da Cal writes). Eighteen of the injured were company employees and two were firemen.

Superpowers to discuss Afghanistan arms cuts

From Christopher Thomas, Kabul

The United States and the Soviet Union will discuss far-reaching proposals next week for reducing arms supplies both to the Afghan Government and Mujahidin rebels.

Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, is understood to have made a secret one-day visit to Kabul several days ago to outline the tentative superpower moves.

The Mujahidin, aware of growing US disengagement with them, have launched a fierce battle to capture the city of Khost, near the border with Pakistan, in a desperate attempt to prove themselves.

Their aim is to set up a temporary capital there for the tottering Afghan interim government, now based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar. But all the signs are that Khost will not fall.

The rebels' failure will increase the likelihood that the US will soon cut back its

military support. Well-informed sources talk of an imminent superpower agreement that might lead to a severing of arms supplies to both sides.

Washington and Moscow have been sounding each other out for some months about a possible mutual cut in military support.

Firm ideas will be proposed next week at talks between Mr Shevardnadze and Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State. The US will be looking for a sign that the Soviet Union is willing to accept a political solution in which President Najibullah will ultimately step down. It has softened its demand for his immediate removal.

In Kandahar, Mujahidin fighters wander the city after first handing in their weapons. When they leave they get them back. In some areas, the rebels have formed local militias to keep the peace.

In the early morning of June 4, he helped to negotiate with the Army for the exodus of students from Tiananmen Square. Once he was out of the square, doctors covered him in a sheet as if he were a corpse and carried him out of the danger zone.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Hou said yesterday: "If there were free elections, not 1 per cent of the population would vote for Li Peng." He is blatant in his contempt for what he calls "the Peking regime" and in apportioning blame for the massacre.

"Li Peng doesn't have enough of a brain to be a professional killer," says Mr Hou. "He doesn't have enough power to pull all those triggers." Mr Hou implies that only Mr Deng Xiaoping can be held ultimately responsible, but he stops short of uttering the ultimate heresy.

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January 30 1990

PARLIAMENT

Thatcher 'is out of touch' on ambulance row

PRIME MINISTER

Mrs Margaret Thatcher persistently repeated her belief that the ambulance workers had been given a fair offer. During sharp questioning from the Opposition benches she was accused of being out of touch with the feelings of the people.

Mr Robert MacEwan (Caithness and Sutherland, Lib Dem): Does she consider that the Government's dogged inflexibility is the proper response to the exceptional sense of duty shown by our ambulancemen to the injured and dying victims of the gales and tempests this winter?

What greater catastrophe is required to bring home to her the justice of our ambulance men's cause?

Mrs Thatcher said that the Government and management had moved on the ambulancemen's case for more pay. It was the ambulancemen who had not moved at all since the union, long ago, recommended accepting 6.5 per cent.

The Government had moved to an 18-month settlement, which offered an increase of between 9 per cent and 16.3 per cent, a very considerable increase, which would cost £5 million more than this financial year.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition: What is her response to the statement by church leaders yesterday calling for the Government to set up an independent inquiry to resolve the ambulance dispute?

Mrs Thatcher referred him to her earlier reply and said that the Government had moved on the dispute. There was already a negotiating body to negotiate.

Mr Kinnock said that Mrs Thatcher had already spent £10 million of public money on keeping the dispute going, which was more than it would cost to settle it.

"There is the sense for the public, the ambulance personnel or even the Government, when the public so clearly supports the ambulancemen's case and that she is so completely out of touch with the feelings of the people?"

Mrs Thatcher said that the sense was to stick to established means of negotiation, whether it was a trade body or the Whitley Council. If not, it would be difficult for those who had honoured their own method of negotiation and had settled, as had 85 per cent of the NHS staff in the early summer.

inaction Bill under the 10-minute rule, said that if those taking part in today's rallies had been in Eastern Europe, Conservative MPs would regard them as heroes.

The public who attended these rallies were showing support for ambulance crews on whose skills in saving lives they could depend in an emergency — skills seen in action last week when crews who had not been paid since before Christmas turned out to attend casualties in gale force storms.

The Government had begun the dispute too afraid to go to arbitration and was now too stubborn to sit round the table and negotiate unless the staff surrendered first. Throughout the four months of this dispute the Secretary of State (Mr Kenneth Clarke) had never once sat down with the staff side in an effort to find a solution.

The price of cover by the police alone now exceeded £13 million. The bill for Army cover must now be well over £25 million. The health service was now paying the police and the Army £2 million a week to do the job that ambulance staff could do better. Why was the money not used to settle the dispute rather than prolong it?

His Bill would extend to the ambulance staff the same pay mechanism that was enjoyed by the other emergency services.

Mrs Thatcher had said in 1978 that all three services deserved to have their pay negotiations put outside the arena of industrial dispute. She was right then and wrong now in refusing to admit that the same logic still stood. It would give ambulance staff a guarantee they would receive a fair award.

"More important, it would give public and patients a guarantee that these vital emergency services need never again be disrupted by dispute."

Sir George Young (Ealing, Action, C), opposing the Bill, said that the review bodies were to settle pay and conditions of professional staff who had renounced industrial action.

Unions representing ambulance staff had never suggested that they were prepared to forgive industrial action.

How could one justify substantially higher pay rates for ambulance staff compared with other NHS staff? Against the background of the offer and other settlements in the NHS, there was nothing dishonourable in the union's saying that it would like to return to the negotiating table.



Mrs Edwina Currie (left) at the opening yesterday of a new branch in Langham Place, central London, of Brook Street, the employment agency. With her is Mrs Kathleen Pampellonne, the mother of six children, who has recently resumed a career after 23 years.

Statement: Agriculture

Cash help for sheep farmers

Sheep farmers in hill and upland areas are to get extra help from the Government. Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, announced in a

statement as soon as possible. The £2.5 million annual increase would take total HILCA payments to about £125 million a year.

He said that the Government's commitment to these areas was demonstrated by an increase in the rate of hill livestock compensatory allowance (HILCA) of 75p an animal. It would cost £5.2 million in a full year.

The increase came after a review of the less favoured areas, which showed that the average net farm income of livestock producers in the hill and upland areas were forecast to fall in 1989-90, after an increase in the previous year.

In particular, there had been a reduction in the incomes of specialist sheep producers in high hill areas where opportunities to diversify were limited.

The Government is proposing to increase the rate of hill livestock compensatory allowance payable under the 1990 scheme on hairy breed ewes maintained in the severely disadvantaged parts of our less favoured areas.

The rate per head will be increased by 75p, from £6.75 to £7.50 per animal. All other HILCA rate conditions remain unchanged in 1990. Effect would be given

to the increase as soon as possible. The £2.5 million annual increase would take total HILCA payments to about £125 million a year.

There was new provision in the European Community regulations that allowed member states to include measures in the HILCA scheme to take account of environmental requirements. The HILCA already provided a significant contribution in terms of environmental benefits, but the Government would look carefully at whether that should be made more specific.

Mr David Clark, chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture, said that the increase in HILCA for sheep was welcome. The level had been frozen for four years.

There was a serious omission in the statement in that there was no mention of HILCA for cattle. Mr Gummer had missed a great opportunity for improving the environment of the upland areas by failing to update the level of support for cattle.

That was doubly so when beef breeders were facing falling prices for their cattle due to the effects of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy and the Government's mismanagement of that crisis.

Mr Gummer said that there were an infinite number of subjects which he could

have referred to, but they would not have related to the statement.

Last year the increase in real terms in the incomes of the farmers in question was 19 per cent. Therefore it was not appropriate to make the increase in the payments. This year it was estimated that there would be a fall in real terms and he wanted to do something helpful about it.

He rejected the suggestion that the Government had not taken action on BSE.

"We have put the health of the public first, foremost and entirely, and at the same time we have sought to help the farming community out of a difficult position."

Mr James Wallace (Orkney and Shetland, Lib Dem) said that it was a kick in the teeth for the industry. The level of the green pound was disadvantageous to farmers seeking export opportunities.

Mr Gummer said that he fought extremely hard for a change in the green pound rates. He was extremely concerned that Britain was being discriminated against. But he was determined to win through because it was important to the future of British farming.

Mr George Foulkes (Carrick, Cumbria and Doon Valley, Lab) said that the increase failed to keep up with inflation and did not meet the demands of farmers.

HIV cash payments start now

Arrangements for paying ex-gratia sums to haemophiliac sufferers contaminated with the HIV virus have been completed and payments are to begin immediately. Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Minister for Health, said in a Commons written reply. A new discretionary trust called the Macfarlane (Special Payments) Trust had been set up to administer the payments.

Closure is false economy'

Criticism of the withdrawal of government funds from the Agricultural and Food Research Council was expressed at questions.

It might be short-sighted. Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thanet South, C) suggested to withdraw funding "for the specialist meat laboratories in Bristol just at a time when there are anxieties on issues such as mad-cow disease". He said that it was a false economy to cut back on £1.6 million of spending on an industry that earns over £3 billion.

Vacancy rate for teachers

The vacancy rate for teachers in secondary schools shown in the annual survey last year was 1.2 per cent, broadly the same as in 1979. Mr Alan Howarth, Under Secretary for Education and Science, said in a Commons written reply.

Bull fights

There is no legal basis in the Treaty of Rome to justify European Community intervention in bull-fighting. Mr David Maclean, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, said in a written Commons reply. Mr Ted Taylor (South East, C) had asked that the EC should produce measures to ban bull-fighting.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Scotland. Debates on Liberal Democrat motions on the EC and developments in Eastern Europe and on small businesses and the self-employed.

Lords (2.30): Debate on education and training.

Bill 'a union cold war leftover'



Mr Blair: Much in the Bill is wrong and unfair.

The following report of later speeches in the Commons debate on the second reading of the Employment Bill appeared in Part II in earlier editions yesterday.

Mr Tony Blair, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, said that the Bill was a leftover from the old agenda of the industrial cold war.

Eleven years on, MPs were still being told that it was the trade unions that were to blame for Britain's ill-health, it was the recklessness of Cabinet ministers that was to blame.

Much in the Bill was wrong, damaging and unfair. All forms of sympathy and secondary action would be banned, a proposition manifestly unfair and unreasonable.

Most obnoxious were the provisions that would allow small groups of people of strike. Under the Bill an employer could provoke a walkout and void dismiss a trade union official for reasons extraneous to the unofficial dispute just because he did not like trade unions.

This was a shabby, bigoted measure. It looked back not forward, because the challenges of the future could not be addressed through the prejudices of the past.

Sir Norman Fowler (Sutton

Bedfordshire, C) said that the slogan used to be a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. The slogan should now be "A generous day's pay for complete flexibility of working practices".

If the unions were to be asked for that, then something had to be asked of employers and management, too. As it stood, the Bill could provide certain employers with an opportunity for doing untoward things.

Mr Kim Howells (Pontypridd, Lab) said that it made no sense to see scatter gun legislation to control irresponsible people because it would destroy precisely those elements in the trade union movement who were trying to bring in a sense of discipline.

Mr Tony Lloyd, an Opposition spokesman on employment, said that the legal framework had made official action more and more difficult and the surprise was that official action did not break out far more widely.

Mr Tim Eggar, Minister of State for Employment, said that the Bill put the last nail in the coffin of the tyrannical closed shop.

The Bill was read a second time by 255 votes to 198 — Government majority, 57.

Peers express fears for the future of legal profession

HOUSE OF LORDS

few specialist pockets, within a few years.

"We would be handing over the Bar, bound hand and foot, to the solicitors' profession."

Lord Mifflin, for the Opposition, said that more important than the rights of the Bar and of solicitors were the rights of the public. The reforms being introduced would benefit the public by making the legal service more effective, more costly and more ungainly.

It would not be a reform but the abandonment of a traditional system that had proved itself over many years.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, said that he thought the proposal to allow solicitors the right of audience was right in the circumstances. It was the first step in an evolutionary change that would help to overcome difficulties which had arisen over the years.

Lord Simon of Glaisdale (Ind) said that the proposal, populist and attractive at first, would see the end of the Bar, except for a

that he feared the small, high street solicitors would find it difficult to compete.

Lord Gifford (Lab) said that he applauded the basic thrust of the Government's desire to open advocacy to solicitors. That had operated in Australia since 1981 and the Bar there was flourishing.

The amendment was not pressed to a division and there were no falls.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern said that he would consider an amendment proposed by Lord Ackner (Ind) that would enable the judges who were to decide which bodies had the right to grant their members' right of audience or the right to conduct litigation to become involved at an earlier stage. He said that he would consider whether the machinery could be improved so that the judges could participate informally, as well as ultimately formally.

Lord Ackner said that the Bill the role of the judges was not properly provided for. They were not brought into the process until after the Advisory Committee, the Lord Chancellor and the Director General of Fair Trading.

'Niggardly and crazy' plan to save on milk is attacked

WELFARE

Government and all it would get would be an insignificant £8 million.

Mr Donald Thompson (Calder Valley, C), until last year a junior agricultural minister, said that it was a niggardly piece of legislation.

The Government had been misled by half-baked consultants. There was a danger of recalling the old "Mrs Thatcher milk snatcher" days. The Government should think about the proposal again.

Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton, C) said that it was one of the most ill-conceived schemes he had seen. The money saved was trivial.

Mrs Elizabeth Peacock (Barnsley and Spenn, C) said that she could not support the regulations, which were damaging and against the interests of all concerned.

Mr Robert Wareing (Liverpool, West Derby, Lab) said that there had been no consultations. The health department was just acting on advice from the Prime Minister.

Mr Christopher Hawkins

(High Peak, C) condemned it as an imbecile, crazy scheme.

Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for Health, said that the proposal would not damage the welfare milk scheme or its 800,000 beneficiaries. Nor would the proposal place any unnecessary burden on milkmen and women. There was no hidden agenda to end the welfare scheme.

The Government was a bulk purchaser of milk and the argument was that without the welfare scheme some extra sales would be lost.

There would be a 10 per cent saving on the £80 million annual cost of the welfare scheme through claiming a 3p discount on each pint of milk delivered. That figure would allow for regional variations in price.

The burden of the discount would be divided between producers, processors and distributors. It would not fall on the beneficiaries.

The scheme would come regularly before the House and he gave an assurance that, unless there was evidence of an equitable distribution of the financial burden, the regulations would be reviewed.

Labour attack on 'baby story abuse'

The purchase of exclusive rights to interview the parents of Alexander Griffiths and to photograph the baby by the *Newspaper of the World*, *The Sun* and *Sky Television* after she was found was a glaring example of the abuse of cross-media ownership. Mr Robin Corbett, Opposition spokesman on broadcasting, said yesterday (our Political Staff write).

Mr Corbett argued that Mr Rupert Murdoch as the owner of Sky Television and other owners of satellite channels, should be bound by the same rules as the owners of terrestrial and satellite channels licensed in this country.

During the committee stage of the Broadcasting Bill he proposed an amendment to limit Mr Murdoch's stake in Sky to 20 per cent — after an 18 month period of grace. The amendment was defeated by 15 votes to 9.

He said that his argument applied equally to other owners of satellites not licensed in the UK, but the "vulgar auction" over the rights of access to the baby was an example of abuse.

The *Newspaper of the World* was reported to have paid £75,000 for the rights, leaving over £100,000 for newspapers which had helped to

reforms would provoke the most controversial reaction in Scotland. What was wrong with the present system in which solicitors now practised in an open and competitive conveyancing market and managed to give people sound advice?

The proposed rights of audience for solicitors would not improve the quality and efficiency of the courts.

The Government should think again on this matter because every charity was accountable publicly and openly in the conduct of its affairs and that anyone guilty of serious mismanagement would be brought to account.

Other changes involved the period of separation required to establish the irretrievable breakdown of marriage in divorce cases. Present periods were unnecessarily long.

Finally, in Scotland there was no provision to allow evidence to be given through television links from abroad. He was arranging for views on the matter to be obtained because this facility would be useful.

Lord Macaulay of Bruges, Opposition spokesman on Scottish legal affairs, said that it was an insult to Scotland and to its legal system to legislate on such diverse and important subjects in a single Bill. The main legal

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From the far country: the British embassy in Ulan Bator and (inset) our former ambassador, Allan Butler

Never a crossword from Sir Max Beerbohm

In 1940, Sir Max Beerbohm wrote to *The Times*: "No doubt you, like most people, have sometimes thought of some utterly awful thing that you could do if you chose to, some disastrous and devastating thing the very thought of which has brought cold sweat to your brow? And you may have at some time thought: 'Suppose I released into the columns of *The Times*, one of these fine days, a crossword puzzle with clues signifying nothing whatsoever,' and may have hideously pictured to yourself the effect on all educated parts of Great Britain?"

"And you may further have wondered just how the apology in the next day's issue should be worded — just what excuse should be offered, before the shutters in Printing House Square were briskly and slamminly put up for ever? Perhaps I oughtn't to remind you of this nightmare of yours. Forgive me.

time and observing in the armchairs men with blank, set, fixed, pale, just-not-despairing faces, poring over the current issue? — one of them perhaps rising unsteadily and lumbering out of the library and asking the librarian, 'Have we a Wordsworth concordance?', or some question of that sort..."

"Out of consideration for our solvers, *The Times* printed Beerbohm's letter alongside his crossword. Some of his clues read more like crossword clues than the real thing, and his quotations would not have disgraced their putative authors. Given this protective coloration, his six clues are not all that easy to spot. (Answers at end of the clues.)

Printmaking: The creative process

Simon Palmer created 'The small Farmer and the large Farm Worker' using 22 separate silk screens, one for each colour. When he had finished each of the 350 in the series he signed and numbered each one and then destroyed the screens to ensure the limitation of the edition.

Simon Palmer's new works are just one element of the new CCA Gallery portfolio which features 30 works of art by contemporary artists and sculptors. To acquire your free copy of our New Year Collection portfolio, please complete the coupon below or phone 01-491 2523 (24 hours).

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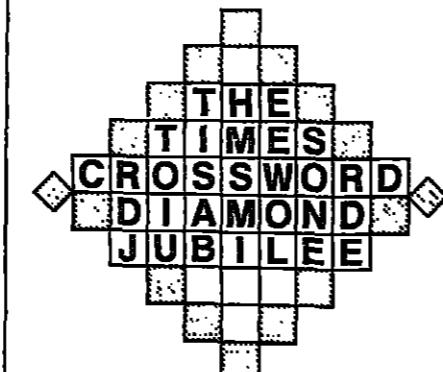
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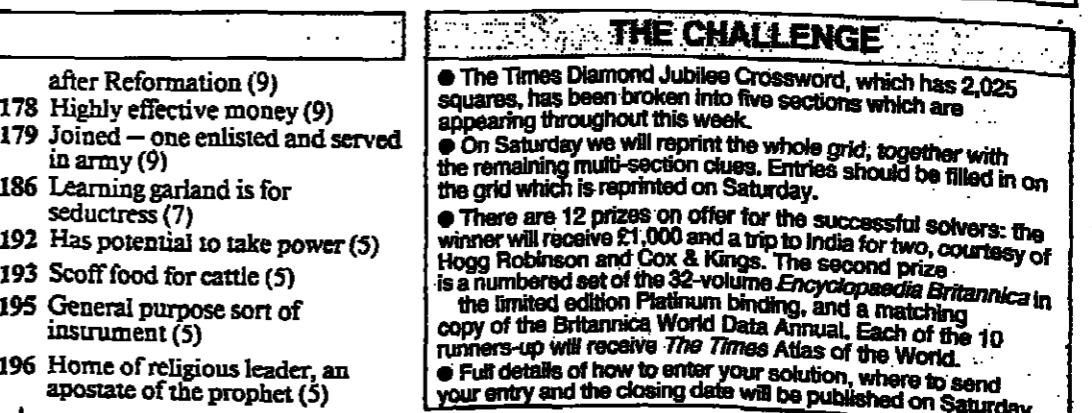
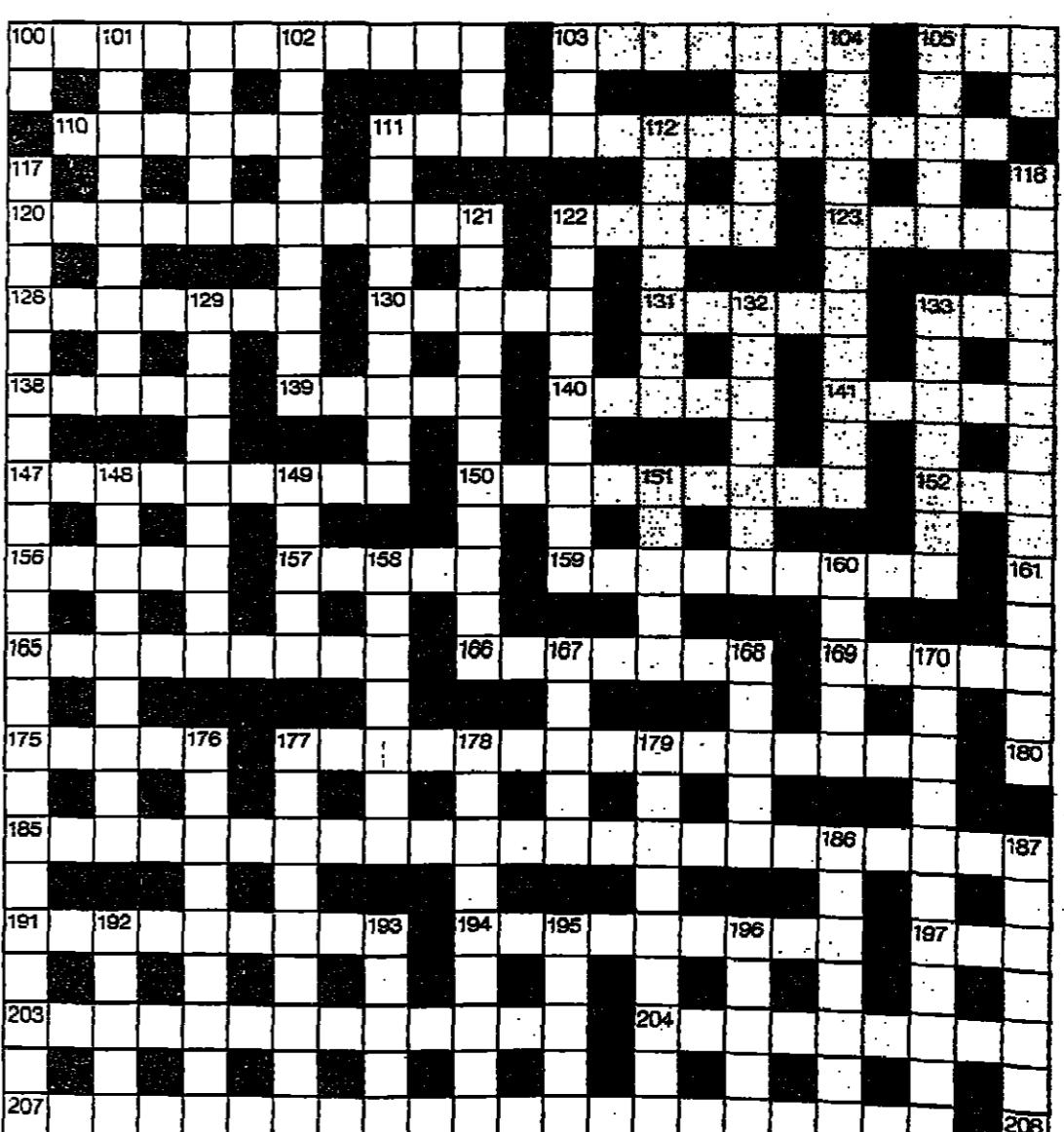
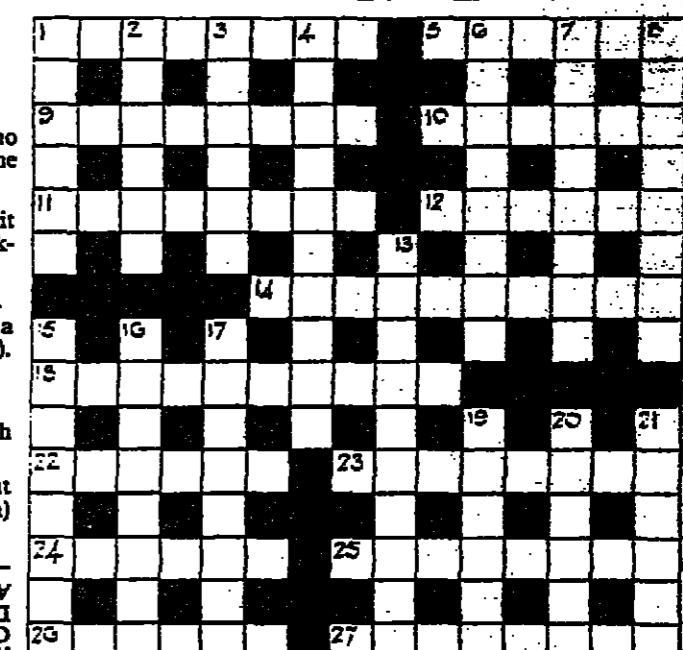
Today we print the third set of clues to our prize puzzle, together with the relevant part of the grid. The answers fit within, but do not fill, the unshaded section shown on the right

ACROSS

- 110 Swearing in part of Russia (6)
- 120 Mount sentries in military HQ (5,6)
- 128 Promise union to endure a sort of Communist hothead (7)
- 130 Pick a size of type (5)
- 138 Left before midsummer? Gosh! (5)
- 139 Plan to get man on US board (5)
- 147 Left a ring to only daughter (9)
- 156 Contents of home, say, that you'll find in city (5)
- 157 Like Eliza in this tur (5)
- 165 Reassemble never, once scattered (9)
- 166 Like eternity ring, in more ways than one? (7)

DOWN

- 101 Plant batches of really exotic trees initially inside this? (9)
- 102 Finally improved recognition of wit in Russian (9)
- 111 A ruder with us, originally? (9)
- 117 Inside story, as told by Oscar (3,6,2,7,4)
- 121 National hero dismantling segregation (5,6)
- 129 Pulled too far back on the rocks (9)
- 148 Chairman's confused, hence total disorder (9)
- 149 Keener parent who overpraised children (5)
- 158 Artist to draw merchant from his city (7)
- 160 Organized workers having the edge in plant (5)
- 167 Split money (5)
- 168 Fish was perceptibly stale (5)
- 170 Thought character of festivities should be changed (11)
- 176 Opening doctor spotted in cancellation (9)
- 177 Endowed altars church retains



THE CHALLENGE

- The Times Diamond Jubilee Crossword, which has 2,025 squares, has been broken into five sections which are appearing throughout this week.
- On Saturday we will reprint the whole grid, together with the remaining multi-section clues. Entries should be filled in on the grid which is reprinted on Saturday.
- There are 12 prizes on offer for the successful solvers: the winner will receive £1,000 and a trip to India for two, courtesy of Hogg Robinson and Cox & Kings. The second prize is a numbered set of the 32-volume *Encyclopaedia Britannica* in the limited edition Platinum binding, and a matching copy of the Britannica World Data Annual. Each of the 10 runners-up will receive *The Times* Atlas of the World.
- Full details of how to enter your solution, where to send your entry and the closing date will be published on Saturday.

TUE 1/2

1 (3)
2 (11)
3 (5)
4 (5)
5 (5)
6 (5)
7 (5)
8 (5)
9 (5)
10 (12)
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21 Tib
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TUE 1/2

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• SOME REVIEWS MAY BE REPRINTED
FROM YESTERDAY'S LATER EDITIONS

Help them to help themselves

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

If the test of a successful television case-history documentary is that it can be capable of arousing real rage, then David Jessel's *A Criminal Way to Treat an Illness*, his *Taking Liberties* series on BBC 2 last night, was a rare winner.

Jessel took up the cases of three people who found themselves the victims of the very institutions they thought would protect them. All three are or were mentally ill. All three belong or belonged to the new underclass of 90,000 long-stay patients who have been decanted into the community since 1954, to form a vagrant group too large for the police to "move along". Only 6,000 of them have been accommodated by local authorities.

It appears from a survey by the Westminster Association for Mental Health (June-December 1988), that one in four of those sleeping rough on London streets is mentally ill: whole areas of the city are, in effect, becoming open-air mental institutions. Jessel ventured into this confused jangle of the destitute and demented, to follow the stories of a paranoid schizophrenic who killed his father, a suicidal wife-stabber, and a tramp who wanders from hospital to prison and back.

Politically, the argument looks simple enough: the left want such people out of Victorian institutions, and the right want them standing on their own feet. But in the middle are the patients themselves, marginalized and lost in the back streets with an illness that was once a shame and which we have now reclassified as a crime.

For such people, the ultimate civil liberty is suicide. An article in *The British Journal of Psychiatry* (No 156, 1990) suggests that between 1972 and 1987 there was an increase of 80 per cent in suicides in prison. According to last night's programme, eight prisoners in Brixton Prison and one prisoner from there sent for trial committed suicide during 1989. (During the same period, three prison officers apparently killed themselves, with a fourth added this month.)

It is surely time, as Jessel remarked, to realize that in abandoning the concept of lunatic asylums because, rightly, "asylum" is now seen as an appalling concept, we have also abandoned the notion of an asylum. Thirty thousand beds for the mentally ill have disappeared in the past 10 years; it may already be too late to reinstate them.

Over on Channel 4, *Ordinary People* was the start of a six-part series which promises to explore why women have become feminists in such areas as the law, education and the arts. The curtain-raiser was, however, nothing more than a dictionary of anti-female quotations, from the 12th-century "To embrace a woman is to embrace a sack of manure", all the way through 800 years to Germaine Greer noting that women today still have very little idea of how much men hate them.

Some of these random quotes were alarming enough, but it would have been equally possible and perhaps more unusual to compile a 30-minute anthology of all the daft things women have ever said about men. On to the next episode please, especially as it comes from an independent production company with the wonderfully apt, and on this occasion accurate, name of Try Again.

The show's ostensible *raison d'être* is historical — to give an

Best when challenged

French piano music of the present century has a special appeal for Iwan Llewelyn-Jones, from north Wales. He devoted his programme entirely to the French repertoire and made much of it.

His recital was presented by the Classical Music Club, an association of music lovers who themselves organize and promote such opportunities to help bring forward young artists. Their enthusiasm clearly meant much to the pianist, after he eased his way a shade nervously into the programme with a Theme and Variations by Fauré that sounded unduly stilted.

Nor did he find his best form until after the opening "Ondine" in Ravel's suite, *Gaspard de la Nuit*, the iridescence of the sprite's watery element having too much rigidity in the constantly recurring shape of the note-pattern.

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THE ARTS

Covent Garden music director Bernard Haitink talks to Richard Morrison about the past two seasons and his present projects

Embattled but not embittered

MARK ELLIOTT

About 25 years ago, when Bernard Haitink was not famous, a PR man tried to interest the Press in him by using the immortal phrase: "He's so uncharismatic as to be interesting". Haitink, who abhors publicity as ardently as Solti or Bernstein revel in it, would rush to endorse the uncharismatic bit. It is said that once, when he was rehearsing the Vienna Philharmonic, the strings suddenly turned on their most bouncy, schmaltzy tone. Any other conductor would have been overwhelmed with pleasure. "Please," responded Haitink in mock horror, "remember I am only Dutch."

No top conductor commands more affection from musicians. So there is widespread sympathy for Haitink's problems as music director of the Royal Opera House: the abandoning of one *Ring* cycle; a spate of ill-received new productions; continued uncertainty about the fate of the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet during Covent Garden's closure.

Most recently, the ballet dispute has threatened one of Haitink's most cherished projects: a production of Borodin's five-hour epic *Prince Igor*, planned to bring together the Royal Ballet and Royal Opera. That has been partly salvaged: he will indeed conduct a sum-and-danced *Prince Igor* tomorrow, though not with David Bintley's new choreography.

Haitink turned down the Royal Opera job twice. It was offered a third time and he said yes. Has it turned out to be the way he expected? "Well, I am a pessimist, a worrier — and I was right. I always say that whenever you enter an opera house, some axe has fallen on your head within five minutes."

Of course, those who have heard him conduct Mahler, Janáček, Shostakovich or even Elgar and Vaughan Williams, will know that the image of a phlegmatic, moderate Dutchman is a smokescreen. His performances dig deep into the neuroses of late Romantic music: intensity and integrity burn like twin lasers through everything he does.

He believes that conducting is something you do with your hands. If a conductor needs to shout in rehearsal, or enter into long explanations, he has failed. "I never shout; I am not a dictator." He likes to quote the verdict of a player when Haitink, barely turned 30, was chosen to succeed Van Beinum as principal conductor of the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra: "The boy knows nothing, but he is a conductor."

Once in Amsterdam, he had to conduct a concert for a convention of American travel agents, who talked persistently through the first item. Haitink stopped the music and walked out. More significantly, the Concertgebouw Orchestra followed him off without hesitation. No charisma?

For more than 25 years the names of Haitink and the Concertgebouw were inseparable: it seemed the perfect marriage of orchestra and conductor. In the 1980s things went wrong: funding wrangles with the Amsterdam city council; threats of personnel cuts. "You cannot cut off an arm or a leg," Haitink angrily told the authorities. He left the "principal conductor for life" position, with a series of emotionally-charged performances of Mahler's Eighth Symphony, in 1988.

The Concertgebouw went to the other extreme, replacing Haitink with the young Italian firebrand, Riccardo Chailly. "Now, suddenly, they are making smoke signals again," says Haitink. "But

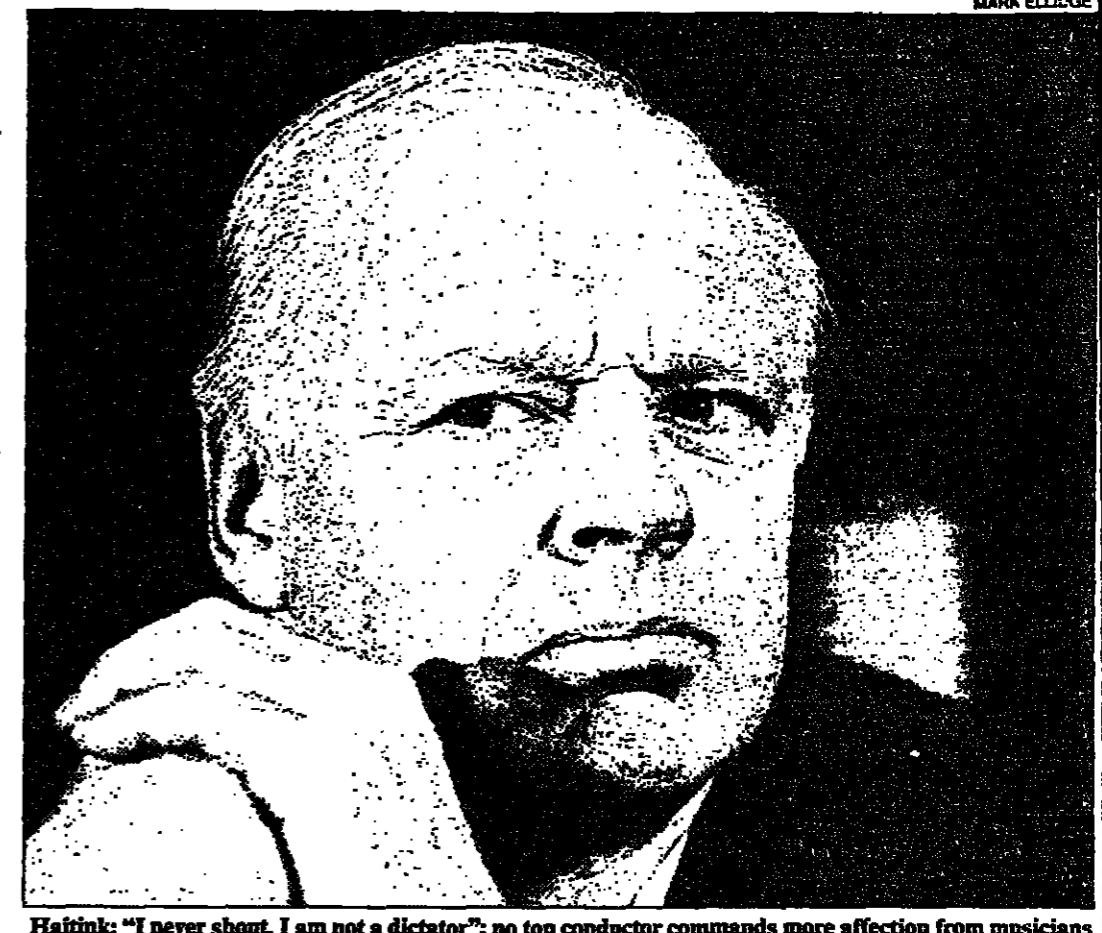
I'm not sure I want to go back as a guest. They have gone in a totally different direction; I don't want to say better or worse."

It says much for his industry that, while he was running one of the finest European orchestras, Bernard Haitink, KBE, was also a central figure in British musical life: principal conductor of the London Philharmonic for more than a decade; music director at Glyndebourne until his Royal Opera appointment.

What of the future? "Listen, I'm 60 now. For 30 years I have been running orchestras and opera houses. As far as Covent Garden is concerned, I am personally not thinking beyond its closure, apart from the fact that I want to do several projects that would suit my philosophy. For example, we are planning *Ring* cycles at the Albert Hall, in 1993 and 1994, using Götz Friedrich's production. It will be semi-staged only, but Friedrich sees possibilities in that. And with 5,000 people each night, we won't have to charge those high ticket prices."

Haitink worries about Covent Garden's pricing policy ("it is against my nature to charge people anything to listen to music"); about the "so-called stars we sometimes have to cope with"; about opera producers who "experiment for experiment's sake, simply following fashion" ("sometimes you talk over their plans with them, then they change them without telling you"); and about the perception by Royal Ballet members that they are poor cousins of the Royal Opera.

One of Haitink's first decisions at Covent Garden was to conduct ballet: something no music director is usually bothers with. "It was my conscience. I wanted to heal



Haitink: "I never shout, I am not a dictator"; no top conductor commands more affection from musicians

Karajan must have worked very hard. When the players approached me, I told them that I could not refuse the post if offered."

The final orchestral vote went to Abbado. "I felt first disappointment that I had not got it, after all the talks we had had. Then I felt admiration that the Berliners had made an excellent musical choice, that they had not considered

candidates who might be called a 'business choice'. Then I felt immense relief, that I did not have the responsibility of running a great orchestra again. There are so many things left to do: digging into certain works I really love. I need more time, less pressure."

• Prince Igor will have eight performances at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, starting tomorrow

Andrew Gibbon Williams on a Glasgow exhibition of fine art works drawn from the collections of banks and international businesses

Raise the company's colours

In America, companies have been doing it for years. But the big names in British business have only recently become aware of the benefits of collecting art. Whereas a one-off musical or theatrical sponsorship is soon forgotten, continuous art acquisition ensures that a company's reputation for philanthropy will stay hot.

It is not only the cultural prestige. Employees get a jollier working environment, artists and dealers are happy and, with a little informed advice, a modest outlay buys a collection which appreciates in value faster than either property or financial investments.

Notwithstanding its Bond Street headquarters, the Fine Arts Society has strong Scottish connections. Through its galleries in Edinburgh and Glasgow it has done more for long-neglected Scottish Victorian painters and the Scottish Colourists than even the National Gallery of Scotland. Several Scottish companies which have collected in this area are in the vanguard of the corporate art boom. As its first City of Culture offering, the FAS has mounted an exhibition of 60 works owned by them: household names such as the Clydesdale Bank and Bank of Scotland, powerful conglomerates such as United Distillers.

Some of these random quotes were alarming enough, but it would have been equally possible and perhaps more unusual to compile a 30-minute anthology of all the daft things women have ever said about men. On to the next episode please, especially as it comes from an independent production company with the wonderfully apt, and on this occasion accurate, name of Try Again.

The show's ostensible *raison d'être* is historical — to give an



Landsseer's "Monarch of the Glen": great 19th-century Scottish icon

genre painting, is indicative of this approach.

The taste of the Clydesdale Bank's Sir David Fairbairn tended toward the historically respectable — museum legitimised artists — so the Clydesdale Collection comprises Sir D.Y. Cameron, Sir John Lavery and Alexander Nasmyth. It is, arguably, of a consistent quality. By far the great majority of corporate collections have "just grown": portraits of past chairmen, landscapes bought for the boardroom, prints to line corridors. They tend to be unfocused combinations of banal pictures by unknown names and rubbish by unknowns. However, the occasional masterpiece can be found.

United Distillers, for example, through its absorption of Dewar's and Johnny Walker, inherited two great 19th-century Scottish icons: Landsseer's still rather awesome "Monarch of the Glen" (familiar in miniature to generations of whisky-tippers) and Sir Henry Raeburn's full-length portrait of the Highland Chief, "The MacNab", described by the foremost Regency portraitist, Lawrence as "the best representation of a human being" he ever saw. With a value of approximately £3 million, a picture such as Landsseer's "Monarch" is a capital asset.

The Scottish corporate connoisseurs play down the investment motive. They do not like to think of themselves as tartan Saatchi & Saatchi speculating on the home market. But, as the value of Victorian pictures continues to rise and as the prices of Scottish Colourists set records at auction, and when even works by contemporary Scottish painters sell for tens of thousands, this looks rather disingenuous.

Like the majority, this collection began with the enthusiasm of a chairman. But Fleming decided to specialize in Scottish art at just the right time. The walls of his hi-tech City headquarters are lined with Scottish Colourists, which were bought for hundreds of pounds, and are now worth hundreds of thousands.

Fleming has recently bought works by James Pryde and William McTaggart for prices in excess of £100,000. At the FAS it is well represented with an impressive group of Glasgow Boys such as E.A. Walton and George Henry and Colourists such as J.D. Fergusson and Peploe.

Arthur Andersen is the only British company to employ a firm of art consultants full-time. It circulates works throughout its branches in the UK and makes a point of patronizing local galleries and local artists. It is difficult to imagine better PR. Arthur Andersen is more adventurous than most and takes a chance with the unfired and avant-garde. A picture of the famous Glasgow market, "The Barras" by the young Scottish artist, Peter Howson, who specializes in this updated form of

Impressionistic poetry of a different sort was apparent in the early *Estampes* by Debussy. The composer's first flirtation with the Orient in "Pagodes" drew subtle variation from the pianist in his handling of pentatonic melodies, and the problems of pedalling that abound in "Soirée dans Grenade", Debussy's first Spanish excursion, were for the most part capably solved. The remaining "Jardins sous la pluie" had rhythmic intensity tempered by nursery-song sentiment.

It was not merely the pianist's recourse to the printed music to guide him through two of the three pieces by Olivier Messiaen that seemed to modify some of the audacities in *Le Feu* 1 and 2, but a feeling that he was still exploring some of their latent possibilities. These he pushed to the limits in "Le Baiser" from the *Réguis sur l'Enfant-Jésus*.

After the challenge of Messiaen, Poulenc's *Napoli* suite inevitably, perhaps, sounded vapid and charmless.

Irreverent, outrageous pranks

THEATRE
Benedict Nightingale

Don Giovanni
Greenwich

Terence Hillyer's Leporello sings "All he ever does is poke" from inside his green hooded sweatshirt. "Nah, nah, nah, nah, I can't take this anymore." And down from a balcony whooshes Mark McGann's Giovanni in his spotted underpants, quickly clothing his bare parts in black pallow, trousers and ski-mask. It looks as if Mozart's greatest opera is about to become a celebration of SAS eroticism: *Who Does Score?*

Tony Britten and Nick Broadhurst's "new version" is not that outrageous, but at times it comes close. Da Ponte's libretto did not include anything obviously translatable as "slag" or "limbo". Nor did Mozart conceive of an Elvira such as Sarah Payne's, venomously warning the Don that she will "have your balls on toast".

Broadhurst's production gives us that and more. There is vodka and orange for Zerlina, the motorway slut, to swallow, a calculator for Leporello to tot up Giovanni's seductions, and even a cricket bat for Simon Butteriss's Hurrah Henry Octavius to take his oath on. The hell which engulfs McGann — a sauntering Chelsea rogue and probable habitat of Tramp — resembles a steamy green sauna.

You can of course huff and puff at all this and call it a vulgar travesty; but its creators might well deflect your ire by agreeing with you. Their intention seems partly to amuse those who do not know Mozart by showing that he

could write a far livelier, more hummable West End musical than any contemporary; and partly to amuse those who do know him by playing inventive pranks with an opera that can, after all, survive a little irreverence.

So there is little point complaining that the evening lacks tenderness, rage, or any other serious emotion. That goes without saying. The objections are, first, that the fun gets too frantic and silly, and, second, that Jan Harriet Morris makes a sudden attempt towards

Nevertheless, Morris's singing remains the strongest around. Most of her colleagues begin well enough, but leave one feeling that, while they would illuminate your average musical comedy, they are not ready for anything more consistently challenging. And that is, one fears, especially true of McGann, too breathy at the start, too hoarse by the end.

MARILYN KINGWILL



Slut and rogue: Zerlina (Kelly Hunter), Don Giovanni (Mark McGann)

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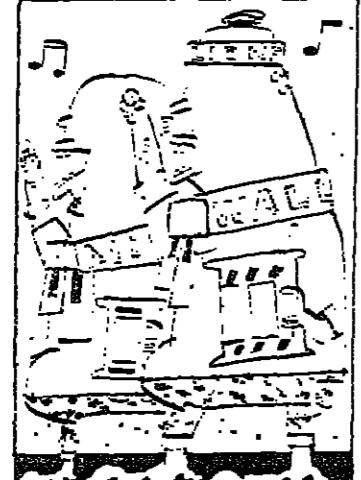
NIGEL WILLIAMSON

What was a Liberal Democrat MP doing at yesterday's Parliamentary Labour Party meeting, applauding speeches by two ambulance workers and Neil Kinnock? "I wanted to show my support for the ambulance staff," said Simon Hughes, member for Bermondsey. "I wasn't sure what sort of reception I would get, but Labour members made me very welcome." Hughes says he has received two high-level approaches to stand at the next election as the Labour candidate in Bermondsey, where the local party is suspended because of a council contretemps. Labour officially denies the story, but Hughes believes the approaches were genuine. "They have been trying to give me a Labour Party membership card for years, but I have resisted – so far," he told me.

Perusing last week's *Hansard*, I noticed that Nicholas Soames voted against Teresa Gorman's bill to repeal the Rent Acts – the only Tory MP to do so. I suggested to him that he must have strong views on the subject. "Not particularly," he told me. "I'm simply unable to support anything Mrs Gorman proposes."

Following his call to the Prime Minister to return to the National Trust the silverware in the Downing Street state dining room borrowed from Belton House, Dennis Skinner is now asking Mrs Thatcher to give up the Gainsborough portrait of David Garrick which she has had on loan from the National Portrait Gallery since 1984. The Prime Minister has replied that the Downing Street state rooms allow such pictures to be "kept safely and displayed to advantage" for the benefit of official visitors. What about the rest of the nation, says Skinner, who tells me he has now written to "Maggie Thatcher" asking what else she has hoarded away behind that famous front door.

BARRY FANTONI



'Sit down, sit down, with hope in your heart'

When David Waddington made his statement on the Taylor report this week, I wonder if he realized what vested interests he faced on the Opposition benches. There is the first division élite such as Joe Ashton, proud owner of two shares in Sheffield Wednesday ("no dividend paid since 1935") and Tom Pendry, whose researcher's wages are paid by Tottenham Hotspur. But there are the minnows, too – Alan Meale, a shareholder in Mansfield Town (currently 64th out of the 92 clubs in the Football League), David Clark, a shareholder in Carlisle United (67th) and Roland Boyes, shareholder and director of Hartlepool United (91st). North of the border there is Harry Ewing, shareholder in the equally undistinguished Cowdenbeath (37th out of the 38 clubs in the Scottish League). Small wonder Labour is against all-seater stadiums – Meale's Mansfield club, for example, estimates that it would cost more than £1 million and reduce crowd capacity to a mere 4,000.

At Woolwich Town Hall tonight, two days after publication of the Taylor report, Labour councillors look set to block the construction of one of Britain's first all-seater soccer stadiums by refusing Charlton Athletic the planning permission it needs to return to The Valley from Selhurst Park which it shares with Crystal Palace. If they do, Charlton supporters – many of them Labour members, and despite threats of expulsion – will announce their intention to stand against Labour councillors all over the borough in the May elections on a "Voice of the Valley" ticket. They feel betrayed by Labour politicians on Greenwich borough council who said they wanted to see the club back only to turn against the idea once it needed fruition.

A year ago when Charlton re-purchased The Valley and announced its intention to return, thousands of supporters, including my diarist, turned up on a Sunday morning to help clear what had become a derelict site. If planning permission is refused tonight and the prospect of football being played again at The Valley recedes, probably forever, I shall be among those shedding a tear. And although this column is strictly above party politics, if "Voice of the Valley" candidates want my assistance, they know where to get in touch.

What is happening to Islington? That scourge of the catering mentality, Jonathan Meades, regrets the absence of a serious restaurant, but if you don't mind eating flippantly you now have a choice of every other retail outlet between the Angel and Highbury Corner.

From Benjy's of Earl's Court ("World Famous Breakfasts") to the Pizza Express; from the Mexican cantinas, Thai road-houses and Greek kebab factories to the Angel Inn (a hangover from an aboriginal cafe society which is offering peanut butter and banana rolls as a sop to the exotic), Islington provides every variety of succour for the beaten-up overcoat and big rubber-soled boot brigade.

I don't know if I'm ready for it all. On Saturday I was tempted by "thin spicy sausages of beef and mutton served with couscous

I t all sounded very noble when Douglas Hurd, referring to Hong Kong, said last month that he was anxious that "the last main chapter in the story of this country's empire... should not end in a shabby way". His own actions and inaction are preventing this ambition from being realized.

Omelco (the Office of Members of the Executive and Legislative Councils) in Hong Kong has pressed the Government to ensure that direct elections to the Legislative Council be established by the time of the handover to China in 1997. Omelco was disappointed that the first elections will not be held until 1991, with only 10 of the 60 Legislative Council members directly elected.

Immediately following the Tiananmen Square massacre last June, I pressed the Government to buttress confidence in Hong Kong by immediately increasing the number of elected members. Sir Geoffrey Howe, in his last days as Foreign Secretary, responded on July 13 by asserting that "the pace of development should reflect the wishes of the whole community", and referred to the "unanimous view" of

Omelco as "a very significant step towards the establishment of a consensus in Hong Kong".

The Omelco consensus calls for 20 elected members next year and 30 in 1995. Despite believing such steps too modest, as apparently did Sir Geoffrey, support the Omelco view. The problem is that Sir Geoffrey did nothing. John Major in his three months at the Foreign Office did nothing, and Douglas Hurd has done nothing.

So the Government has now left the field to the Chinese, who, announcing that there must be only 18 elected members by 1997, have made threatening noises against any higher figure implemented while Hong Kong remains a British colony. As Dame Lydia Dunn and Allen Lee, both legislative councillors, made clear to me last week, the people of Hong Kong are ready to take the risk. Mr Hurd, as I

meanwhile, calls for "convergence" with China. Convergence here means caving in to Peking and breaking commitments to Hong Kong.

Less obviously discreditable, because more opaque, is the Government's present attitude towards a Bill of Rights for Hong Kong. Last July Sir Geoffrey forthrightly told the Commons that a Bill of Rights "will form part of the existing law and will continue after the transfer of sovereignty". Here again there has been a clash with Peking on the question of entrenchment after the handover.

As a result, Hong Kong representatives have thrown out the draft Bill. Mr Hurd has been so cowed by the Chinese reaction, or attaches so little importance to the Bill of Rights, that in his statement to Parliament after returning from Hong Kong he did not even mention it. When I

raised the matter he had to resort to a hasty briefing from Sir Geoffrey on the Government front bench before dismissively referring to the Bill as an "idea" put forward by Sir Geoffrey.

Where the Government has decided to act is by proposing to provide British passports to 50,000 Hong Kong heads of household on a points system which Mr Hurd finds impossible to explain, but which is certainly based on affluence, influence and status, and is quite likely unworkable. Its aim, Mr Hurd said, is to bolster confidence by anchoring this selected élite to Hong Kong.

What remains unclear is how the 96 per cent of the Hong Kong population who will not qualify for this will gain confidence by the Bill of Rights, that is, the knowledge that 4 per cent of their wealthier and more influential compatriots are to be given this privilege. In any case,

the whole scheme seems increasingly irrelevant in view of China's recent announcement that after 1997 senior officials in Hong Kong will not have the right to live abroad and that Hong Kong residents with British passports will not be allowed to seek British consular protection while in the territory.

The Government's scheme is accordingly transformed from a purported anchor into an incentive to emigrate before 1997.

The other government action, easily the least worthy and aimed at pacifying certain sections of opinion in Hong Kong, has also come unstuck. When Vietnamese boat people – mainly women and children, with a handful of men – were forcibly sent back in November, it was said that the objective was to deter others in Vietnam from setting forth when the "sealing season" begins next month.

The cynicism and slothfulness of a procession of foreign secretaries has worsened Hong Kong's predicament rather than provided reassurance. Is this what was once called the resolute approach? The author is Labour spokesman on foreign affairs.

Gerald Kaufman lists further failures to stand up to Peking

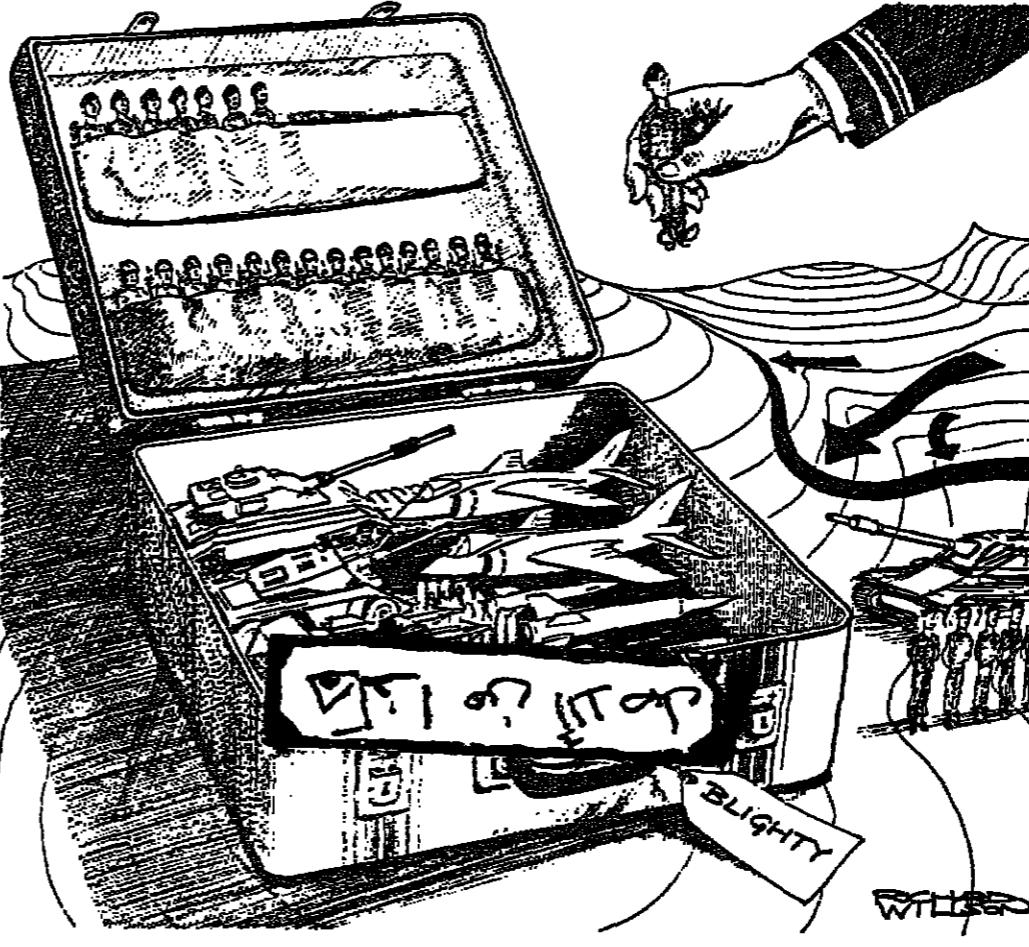
Hurd's damaging inaction

The international outcry led to suspension of further deportations until an international conference could discuss the issue. When that conference was held in Geneva last week the Government's policy was thrown into disarray by a failure to agree. No doubt Mr Hurd was able to bear with equanimity what his officials called the "hypocrisy" of the United States in opposing the deportations.

Far more awkward was the demand by Vietnam for a moratorium on deportations until October, since deportations are not possible if Vietnam will not receive those who are sent back. Far more revealing was Britain's readiness to accept a six-month moratorium; those six months, of course, take us to July, and make nonsense of the claim that deportations were essential before March pour encourager les autres.

The cynicism and slothfulness of a procession of foreign secretaries has worsened Hong Kong's predicament rather than provided reassurance. Is this what was once called the resolute approach? The author is Labour spokesman on foreign affairs.

What role now for the Army?



Henry Stanhope foresees big cuts – including an almost total run-down in Germany – as Soviet forces leave Eastern Europe

based in Hereford. But the number of suitable volunteers is limited. Only one out of every five applicants is accepted and the regiment could not easily double in size unless it lowered its standards and its quality. Nor is there a convincing precedent. At no time since its post-war revival in 1952 has the 22nd Regiment SAS had to be de-

ployed at its full strength anywhere – including the Falklands War eight years ago when it returned to its wartime role of operating behind enemy lines.

Nor is it conceivable that the Army could resume its old responsibilities of "world policeman". Intervention in some overseas imbroglio, whether or not by invitation of the govern-

ment, would have serious foreign policy (and budget) implications. The idea, however romantically expressed, of British soldiers standing by like guardian angels is unconvincing.

In fact the larger part of a smaller British Army would probably continue to share two major roles. One would be the defence of the realm in Britain itself.

This is already the responsibility of a general at United Kingdom Land Forces headquarters outside Salisbury who in wartime would command a mixed force of regular and Territorial Army troops, now garrisoned throughout the country's military districts. Troops could also play a bigger role in supporting the civil power, most

distant dream. But a number of famous old regiments, including infantry, will be merged or be reduced to reserve status. Demobilization will be painful and expensive, given that not all might be achieved through natural wastage.

The departure from West Germany would be bearable. Life in BAOR has become frustrating for many units, with wives finding it difficult to get jobs there. Although the Russians are withdrawing, they may still have to play the part of bogeymen, providing a yardstick beside which British forces and theirs can be measured. In the absence of a new one coming forward, the last enemy has a crucial role to play.

American battle starts for the spoils of peace

Peter Stothard reports on claims to surplus millions that do not exist

Familiarity does not, however, breed comprehension. The "war dividend" of olden days was easy. You raided and pillaged and divided the spoils. Then you repeated the trick until your defences let you down and somebody else took over the dividing.

A peace dividend is different. This is a reapportionment of money you may have intended to spend on defence. It is not money you necessarily would have spent, certainly not money that you own. Like many ancient city states, the US has borrowed heavily to secure the safety of itself and its friends. There is no spare gold to go round.

Last December, when President Bush spoke to Nato leaders, he seemed to have this truth clearly in view. He dismissed the whole dividend idea: any savings would be used to reduce the deficit on the US current account. Now he seems somewhat less resistant to the charms of fashion. This week he allowed his budget director, Richard

Darman, to put forward enough to satisfy at least some congressional demands for job creation, farm subsidies, welfare benefits and other dividends of peace.

At the same time, however, he allowed Darman – the biggest intellect in his administration – to devise an intricate budget which is no more honest and persuasive about its deficit-cutting intentions than was the last. Arguably, the only real peace dividend, as a senior Democrat congressman told me the other day, is for President Bush himself, who can more easily keep his pledge of "no new taxes".

If any dispassionate person were to read the whole budget book (which, its creator admits, would take a year of careful eight-hours-a-day study), he or she could conclude only that its writer was a Byzantine rogue. That, of course, is not Darman's fault. His inquisitor's skills, honed in the service of three presidents, Nixon, Reagan and Bush, are merely the only

weapon able to cope with the problems of sharing government with the hostile men on Capitol Hill.

US budget policy represents

the sum of two contradictory wishes by the US electorate – money for themselves and meanness (call it caution) towards other Americans. As long as voters elect Republican presidents and Democratic legislators, men like Darman will never lack employment.

The task of running the White House Office of Management and Budget needs a formidable skill that the budget director learnt when he studied Elizabethan symbolism at Oxford in the 1960s. Twenty-five years later, when a man was needed to impersonate Michael Dukakis in rehearsals for the televised presidential election debates, Darman was the automatic choice.

He did not mind taking the

catcalls of "Shorty" as he stood on the specially raised podium

for the diminutive would-be president. He just did his usual job of trying to fit big bills into a small pot of money without anyone noticing. He apparently did it much better than the governor of Massachusetts ever did, although, since he cuts his own hair, he never quite achieved the scrubbed-fresh Dukakis look.

Richard Darman, however, is

more than just an intellectual mechanic. He is a prober. He not only produces cynical budgets, but, with the same pen, writes messages of doom about what will happen if such budgets continue to be produced.

Knowing that congressmen watch television only to see themselves or to keep their children occupied, he drew his imagery from *Sesame Street* and *Pat Man*. He accused the politicians of ignoring the self-devouring monsters – the legislation on health and nuclear clean-up bills – which will destroy future budgets unless

tough decisions are made now.

He is the ideal man to administer a peace dividend. He is a great divider. His biggest contribution to the US public spending process was to import the British system of setting a notional public purse and asking departments to bid for a share of it rather than for the biggest number they could think of. The result was to set cabinet members at each others' throats rather than at the budget director's.

Some of the Bush team may live to be grateful for that. It does not do to get on the wrong side of the divisive Darman. President Reagan's spokesman, Larry Speakes, was rewarded for some implied insults with the following Darman-esque note. "It has been my experience that the wheel turns round and round in this town. Please be assured that the next time I am in a position to influence the prospects of your success, failure or capacity to serve, I shall remember your thoughts."

Speakes is not enjoying the best of fortune.

The night I played couscousberry



GRIFF
RHYNS JONES

might have buried his head in *'Viz'* and grunted, but they were less than a baguette's length away. We were *l'et-à-l'état* whether we liked it or not. They naturally asked me to join

them, which I naturally did. But two's company at a mock Parisian marble-topped table and three's a catastrophe. Bits of the table arrangement kept falling on the floor. Things were not helped by two carrier bags of reading matter and an unfoldable *Independent Review*.

We talked Islington. Mary was flat-hunting in the area. It's the mortgage rate that keeps Islington's cafe society going. Nobody can afford to eat seriously. Cafes are not the place for dress assignments. There is an excellent patisserie in Soho called Maison Berthaud. You choose your delicious pastry downstairs and go upstairs to your table.

Many years ago I took a delicious pastry of my own there. The only other occupants were Maurice Richardson and my then regular girlfriend's father. Behind us the waitress was fussing up the stairs with our loaded tray. There was no turning back. I was plunged into a *Forbes* comedy.

"This is Claire, a very old friend of mine," I said. "This is my daughter's boyfriend," he said. I tried to make it appear that I had woken up every afternoon to take tea in upstairs rooms with voluptuous young female opera singers, but the look in their eyes took the edge off my rum Baba. On Saturday, on the way out, I

bumped into John and Lise. "Mary and Nigel are in there," I said cheerily. They glanced at each other, significantly. Really! If people must have intimate liaisons they should stick to an under-the-Tandoori. Does such a thing still exists west of Haringey? At least down my bit of the Goswell Road it is still egg, beans and chips in any combination, with croissants. But the city wine-bars are creeping up from the south and the pseudo-gallic cafes from the north. How long can it be before they meet in one giant puddle of brown wood and fake marble full of friends having quiet moments? I can't wait.

What the original inhabitants make of it is anyone's guess. They can buy seven varieties of almond croissant but there still isn't a Next or a W.H. Smith. "C'est la vie," as they say in the Balls Pond Road.

What is happening to Islington? That scourge of the catering mentality, Jonathan Meades, regrets the absence of a serious restaurant, but if you don't mind eating flippantly you now have a choice of every other retail outlet between the Angel and Highbury Corner.

From Benjy's of Earl's Court ("World Famous Breakfasts") to the Pizza Express; from the Mexican cantinas, Thai road-houses and Greek kebab factories to the Angel Inn (a hangover from an aboriginal cafe society which is offering peanut butter and banana rolls as a sop to the exotic), Islington provides every variety of succour for the beaten-up overcoat and big rubber-soled boot brigade.

I don't know if I'm ready for it all. On Saturday I was tempted by "thin spicy sausages of beef and mutton served with couscous

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SPENDING STRATEGY

The public expenditure White Paper published by the Government yesterday should act as a cautionary tale for the Chancellor, Mr John Major, as he prepares his Budget. The rise in spending of £5.5 billion compared with the plans set out for 1990-91 this time last year will clearly make it more difficult to achieve the prudent fiscal policy which is needed to buttress monetary policy and bring down inflation.

In the Government's defence it should be noted that the rise in spending does not fully accommodate the rise in inflation since the earlier plans were set out. Public spending next year is still expected to turn out at 39 per cent of total spending in the economy. That is higher than this year only because with inflation higher than expected spending in the economy has been higher and public spending therefore lower as a proportion.

By allocating more money to priority programmes such as health and roads the Government has also maximized the political return on its investment. Though a Conservative Government can never hope — nor should it attempt — to trump Labour by promising higher public spending, its favoured programmes are for the most part well chosen and should help to soothe public demands.

Nevertheless ministers cannot afford to be complacent about present trends. After several successful years in which spending turned out lower than expected and fell as a proportion of national income the present situation is less satisfactory. Not only is spending expected to rise next year as a proportion of the economy, it is creeping up above the planning total in the current year. According to the White Paper this year's overrun is now expected to be £1.36 billion above the original plans, a rather larger excess than forecast at the time of the autumn statement.

Much of the overrun is, as ever, a reflection of higher spending than expected by the local authorities. That may change with the introduction of the community charge in April which should exert greater local accountability. But the City is uneasy that by redefining public spending from next year, and excluding

councils' locally financed spending, the Government is evading its responsibilities and may allow spending to surge out of control. In that context the overrun on local spending this year is not reassuring.

Although these thoughts are bound to be uppermost in people's minds as the Budget approaches, the importance of the White Paper lies more in what it tells us about the supply side of the public sector than in overall totals and trends. Following the changes introduced by the Treasury in the past two years, egged on by the Treasury Select Committee, the White Paper is now both less important and more important than it used to be in the Government's publication calendar.

It is less important as an indicator of macroeconomic policy because all the detail is now contained in the Chancellor's autumn statement. It is more important because by splitting the chapters of the former publication into separate volumes and expanding them there is more opportunity to provide a comprehensive view not only of what a department is spending but also of what it is buying.

Among many performance indicators scattered through the 21 chapters is, for instance, the information that the Inland Revenue's cost per employee on income tax cases has fallen in real terms between 1985-86 and 1988-89 from £13.07 to £12.36. This is a useful piece of management accounting which tells us more than the information in many other programmes that targets have been exceeded by such-and-such. But without some indication of the quality of service it is still incomplete.

Undoubtedly there is still a long way to go before the White Paper achieves an ideal form. Departmental inertia is considerable and the vested interests of politicians and Civil Servants in presenting a favourable report on their activities must be recognized. Irritatingly for her colleagues but fortunately for the taxpayer, the present Prime Minister has an unprecedented interest in good management in government. It is important that the public expenditure White Paper is both well written and well read if value for money is to become more than a slogan.

WHERE POTSDAM LEFT OFF

Those who have followed the evolution of Mikhail Gorbachov's thinking on the German question will not have been surprised by his seemingly abrupt admission yesterday that, "in principle, no one puts (German reunification) in doubt." Such a gambit has looked ever more likely during the two years since, in conversation with the late Franz Josef Strauss, Mr Gorbachov dropped the first hint by affirming his belief that the Germans were "one nation". Last June, the Soviet leader came to Bonn to affirm the right of all peoples, including the Germans, to decide their own destinies.

His new strategy amounts to nothing less than an abandonment of Soviet support for a separate German Democratic Republic, in favour of a reversion to Stalin's policy, which aimed at detaching Germany from the Western camp and the Americans from Europe. At the time of Stalin's celebrated note of 1952, Adenauer persuaded Washington to reject the offer of German unity at the price of neutrality; Churchill was more inclined to accept.

Nearly three momentous months after the opening of the Berlin Wall, and with the East German communist leader, Herr Gysi, joining virtually the entire spectrum of opposition in declaring himself for reunification, it would be unrealistic for a Soviet leader to seek to prevent the healing of the livid scar which has run across the heart of Europe since 1945. But it is likely that he will not let East Germany, the chief factor in Soviet military strategy, slip out of his grasp, except at a price.

What that price might be, the West does not yet know. Hitherto, the obsession of the West, no less than the East, with arms control has left more profound political questions in the shade. But if Mr Gorbachov himself is in no doubt that "it is necessary to act responsibly and not decide this important question on the streets", then it should be a matter of urgency

for problems to be faced soon by all the interested powers. This raises the possibility of some organized negotiation.

The German question is a European problem. Only by conceding to the Germans the peace treaty which never followed the Second World War, and in which the emerging democracies of central Europe also have an interest, can that problem be resolved. The voices which were absent from the Potsdam conference, the nearest that Europe came to such a treaty, must now be heard. That means not only the voices of the Germans but of the Poles, Czechs and French.

The German people alone have the right to decide on the principles which a unified state would incorporate into its new constitution. Few East Germans seem averse to the extension to themselves of a system closely resembling, if not identical with, the present Federal Republic. There would be no grounds for other countries to object to this; and no grounds for the Germans to arouse unnecessary anxieties by refusing to give reasonable constitutional guarantees to their neighbours.

Quite apart from the specific problem of Berlin and the residual sovereign rights of the occupying powers, the political orientation of a united Germany is a legitimate concern of all Europeans. Bonn and its allies therefore need to determine the best structure in which various concerns can be expressed and discussed.

The four-power machinery is clearly not the suitable vehicle. A suggestion has been aired that the four powers should become six to discuss the future, with the addition of both German governments. Such a conference could perhaps be formally established as a section of a broader debate undertaken in the CSCE (Conference on security and co-operation in Europe).

TRADESMEN BEWARE

The conviction of an electrician for manslaughter in Maidstone Crown Court yesterday has extended the criminal law into areas which most people had assumed were beyond its reach. Many a jobbing tradesman will have to rethink his attitude in the light of it.

Those who are conscientious and properly trained will have nothing to fear, of course; but those who have made a living out of shoddy work are henceforth on notice that they are answerable to a judge and jury, and if seriously at fault, at risk of a prison sentence.

As a result of this case, furthermore, they are on notice that any failure to take a customer's subsequent complaint of their workmanship seriously could also — if death resulted — bring them within the reach of the criminal law. It is a pity that serious injury not resulting in death is not also similarly covered; there is a need for some offence roughly equivalent to "attempted manslaughter," or causing serious injury by recklessness.

The law of involuntary manslaughter has long been a difficult area. The offence consists, essentially, of causing death by gross negligence. The offence is not defined by statute, and the courts have had to rely on a series of judicial interpretations. In a sense this works in favour of the public, for no one can be sure in advance where the line will be drawn in a new case, and of how much negligence amounts to "gross."

The leading cases down the years have shown a gradual sharpening and refining of the legal definition, especially concerning the degree of negligence that is required to justify a conviction. Lawyers will be particularly interested in the unusual circumstances of the Maidstone case, for it was a classic piece of bad workmanship which led to the tragic death of an innocent man.

Mr Stephen Holloway, a self-employed electrician, installed the electrical side of a central heating system. Unfortunately a live wire was connected to the domestic pipework by mistake. Members of the household complained of severe shocks, but when called back to attend to them, Mr Holloway repeatedly put the shocks down to static electricity and declared the system safe.

Eventually Mr Nicholas French, grandson of the householder, was electrocuted when he touched the metal kitchen sink while standing in his socks on a damp floor. Afterwards it took the electricity board less than half an hour to trace the fault.

Mr Holloway's criminal negligence, for which he received a suspended nine months' jail sentence, consisted not merely in the initial wrong connection but in his failure to take the complaints seriously enough to discover the original fault by adequate testing. Whether the first act would alone have been sufficient to support a charge of manslaughter was not resolved, though it bears a striking resemblance to the mistake which led to the Clapham train disaster, which is also to be the subject of manslaughter prosecutions.

A skilled man should have had little difficulty in telling the difference between static electricity and a live connection once he had taken the householders' complaints seriously enough to consider the point. Simple tests would have confirmed it. But householders are at the mercy of anyone with — or claiming — expertise in a technical area. They are entitled to assume he knows what he is talking about. In future any tradesman who covers his ignorance with bluff or his indifference with smooth assurances should remember that he could find himself in prison.

Landscape rent by wind and storm

From Mr Alan Morris

Sir, The devastation suffered by this estate during the hurricane of 1987 was so great that British Telecom used a photograph taken during their valiant efforts to restore our service in their brochure. We were regaled with statements by various Government ministers about all the help that would be given to restore the English countryside.

Yet despite our loss of some 10,000-15,000 trees in the heart of Ashdown Forest, many of great beauty and antiquity, we never qualified for a grant — apparently because we are a privately-owned, non-commercial estate, with no public access.

Ironically, historic landscapes have come to be seen as a much-valued part of our heritage and it is essential that the funds and effort made in 1987, for which many landowners and the nation as a whole have had cause to be grateful, should be supplemented to deal with this latest blow to our landscape heritage.

Yours faithfully,

MAVIS BATEY, President, The Garden History Society, West House, Barrack Lane, Aldwick, West Sussex.

January 29.

From the Earl of Limerick

Sir, Mr Prichard Jones (January 29) remarks that he has yet to see a fallen Wellingtonia. Alas, I can show him one from my magnificent double avenue, which measured its full 130-foot length along the ground on January 25. It succumbed to a south-westerly gale, although its roots had developed to resist gales from that quarter.

In the October 1987, hurricane two of these trees snapped off about 40 feet up, with wind from the south. Northerly gales in 1988 took the tops from three more, all disastrously cracked from 1987.

The other Californian redwood, the *Sequoia sempervirens* of the coastal regions, is much more vulnerable both to snapping and uprooting, but unlike the Wellingtonia it shoots away freely even from a fallen stump.

Other species succumbing last week which had survived 1987 included cypresses, maples and eucalyptus (the larch had virtually all gone). The remaining hardwoods stood better without their leaves. The tentative conclusion is that in the face of such ferocious winds the age and leaf-state of a tree may be more significant than its type.

Yours faithfully,
LIMERICK,
Chiddinglye, West Horsham,
East Grinstead, Sussex.

January 29.

From Dr R. P. Fernando

Sir, Following the recent storm, engineers from several electricity boards have been sent to areas which have incurred the greatest damage to power lines. It is doubtful whether such co-operation will be possible following privatization, when the area boards will become separate, private-sector, companies. Consumers will inevitably face further disruption to their electricity supplies.

The nation would be well-advised to pray that such storms do not recur.

Yours truly,
ROHANTHA P. FERNANDO,
19 Daneite Close,
Ewell, Surrey.

January 26.

Crisis in Caucasus

From Dr Metin Kunt

Sir, Whatever the merits of the Armenian claim to Highland Karabakh, it is astonishing that J. Walker ("Moscow's blind eye to injustice", January 23) ends with allegations against and demands from the Turkish Republic, in spite of the fact that the present conflict in the Caucasus does not involve Turkey at all.

Neither the settlement of the Armenian demand from Azerbaijan nor the resolution of national and political aspirations of the peoples of the Caucasus would warrant repetition of the unproven charge of genocide during the First World War. While it is true and regrettable that hundreds of thousands of Armenians perished in the process of forced resettlement in wartime conditions, many more civilian Turks died of disease and famine.

Yours sincerely,
METIN KUNT,
Cambridge University,
Centre of Middle Eastern Studies,
Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge.
January 23.

From Dr Tom Spencer

Sir, Whatever the merits of the Armenian claim to Highland Karabakh, it is astonishing that J. Walker ("Moscow's blind eye to injustice", January 23) ends with allegations against and demands from the Turkish Republic, in spite of the fact that the present conflict in the Caucasus does not involve Turkey at all.

While the technical credits that appear at the end of films have been with us a long time (letters, January 10, 13, 15, 19, 25), as a holder of a technician's union card I know the importance, especially for freelance workers, of some form of recognition. Is it not time that film producers and unions together worked out some more sensible form of recognition? The present one has become a joke, and does no good to the industry.

How about a certificate of participation, approved by unions and management, to be given to each technician in a film or television programme, on completion of the production? It would be good to see our industry, which has frequently set high standards in the international media world, do so in this particular matter.

Yours faithfully,
TOM SPENCER,
Thornfalcon House,
Northchapel, West Sussex.

January 26.

Fund for East Europe

From Mr Tom Spencer, MEP for Surrey West, MECR (Conservative)

Sir, The £15 million European Democracy Fund (report, January 29), although proposed by Christian Democrats and Conservatives in the European Parliament, was not designed for centre-right groups only, but for any party or group legitimately contesting elections in Eastern Europe which can demonstrate a need for material assistance.

The ruling parties in these countries still control the means to fight elections.

The proposed fund would resemble the US Congress National Endowment for Democracy, a bipartisan non-governmental scheme to support democratic movements.

Yours etc,

TOM SPENCER,
Thornfalcon House,
Northchapel, West Sussex.

January 26.

Where credit's due

From Mr Peter J. Sisam

Sir, The technical credits that appear at the end of films have been with us a long time (letters, January 10, 13, 15, 19, 25). As a holder of a technician's union card I know the importance, especially for freelance workers, of some form of recognition. Is it not time that film producers and unions together worked out some more sensible form of recognition? The present one has become a joke, and does no good to the industry.

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Yours faithfully,

PETER SISAM,
Halfacres, 3 Henley Road,
Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

January 26.

Entente cordiale

From Mr Jonathan Bentall

Sir, Lord Weidenfeld argues persuasively (article, January 19) that the excellent record of the West German Government, and the good will of the younger generation of Germans, deserve considerable trust. However, does this not need to be balanced by closer bilateral relations between Britain and France, within the wider EC framework? These two nations, whose past and potential contributions to the world need no underlining, are now each at risk of being marginalized.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN BENTALL,
212 Hammersmith Grove, W6.

January 26.

Britain and France resemble two competitive siblings who exaggerate their cultural differences while being similar in fundamental ways, and who need a major threat from outside to present a united front. If the threat today is mainly economic it is one less serious. The United States apparent loss of confidence in its role gives a new opportunity for leadership. It is surprising that our politicians do not more to argue this case.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN BENTALL,
212 Hammersmith Grove, W6.

January 26.

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not be signed in the margin. They should be typed or printed in double spacing, with a double space between paragraphs. Please keep your letter brief, and try to keep it to one page. Please include a daytime telephone number, and a fax number if you have one.

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WEDNESDAY PAGE

ROS DRINKWATER

Dutch treat for British schools

How are Dutch teachers preparing to help tackle the crisis in our classrooms? Douglas Broom reports

Marga Veen is a Dutch relief worker. She is 21, just out of college, and heading for Britain to help solve a crisis that threatens the education of thousands of children in London and the south-east.

Although she has never had a full-time teaching job in her native Amsterdam, and her experience of Britain is limited to a week spent in Milton Keynes five years ago, Veen wants to take on one of the most demanding jobs in teaching. If she is successful, she will fly to London in a few weeks' time to take up a teaching post in Hounslow, a deprived and racially troubled borough close to Heathrow airport.

But unlike the 60 Dutch teachers recruited to help plug London's chronic teacher shortages last September, Veen is not entirely unprepared: she is one of the first graduates of a new course at the University of Amsterdam designed to give recruits from The Netherlands some idea of what they are coming to.

Judith Burdell, one of the English tutors on the 10-day course, says that many of the first intake were shocked at the contrasts between the formal Dutch education system, where all schools follow a national curriculum, and the more progressive teaching methods favoured in London. In addition to the problems of having to work in a foreign language all day, many had difficulty coping with a situation in which they were simply given a timetable, and told to devise their own lessons.

Professor Chris Mullard, Professor of Education and Ethnic Studies at Amsterdam University, is critical of the methods used by the Inner London Education Au-

thority to recruit the first wave of Dutch teachers last summer. Finding itself short of more than 1,000 teachers, the Labour-controlled authority resorted to a "press-gang" approach, with the result that recruitment was "unprofessional in the extreme", he says. His "grave concerns" prompted him to set up Euroselect, the consultancy which now runs the Amsterdam course.

Mullard, a pioneer of "anti-racist education", had particular worries. "We initiated this because we were very upset by the initial foray by Ilea, which recruited almost only white teachers. Forty per cent of schools in Amsterdam have significant numbers of black children in them. We also have a considerable number of black teachers, but Ilea did not appear to look at them."

The formation of Euroselect was prompted by a desire to base crisis recruitment on "a firm ethical basis". If Dutch teachers are going to predominantly black schools in London, Mullard asks, would it not help if they too were black?

His approach seems to have won support from Labour and Conservative education authorities alike. Ilea was one of the first to sign up for Euroselect's services. Although the authority, due to be abolished in nine weeks, has now halted its recruitment drive, Euroselect is working for outer London boroughs such as Hounslow and Newham, as well as Essex, Berkshire, Kent and Liverpool.

There is no shortage of applicants. The Netherlands has 3,000 unemployed teachers, the result of a system of higher education that lacks Britain's checks on the supply of graduates, particularly teachers. Any Dutch pupil who gains the equivalent of



Trainee task force: (from left) Netty Terborg, Win Castermans and Marga Veen, three of Euroselect's teacher recruits who are currently undergoing the 10-day preparation course

one A level is guaranteed a place at university or college. And, until recently, there were no restrictions on the number of students who could apply to train as teachers.

The British Government's decision last year to recognize the teaching qualifications of all European Community teachers opened the way to Continental recruitment drives to ease teacher shortage at home. The Netherlands' special attraction derives from the fact that it has an abundant supply of qualified teachers who speak English. The country's position in the entrepôt of Europe has created a business culture which demands multilingualism and a truly European outlook. English, the language of international commerce, is the nation's second language, taught to all schoolchildren.

Euroselect has 500 Dutch teachers on its computerized application list, largely as a result of intensive newspaper advertising.

Applicants go through three screening sessions before being offered to local authorities, who pay the £1,250-a-head cost of the 10-day course. Only those who seem almost certain of making the grade get to start the course.

A period of intensive study of the English education system, from examinations to teaching techniques, they are assessed by the course tutors and, if they pass muster, a certificate is awarded.

Trouble is taken to ensure that nothing about the English system takes the students — mostly experienced teachers, although some, like Veen, are fresh from teacher training college — by surprise. On Monday Burdell was introducing the eight students on the latest course to "the carpet", a vital feature of the English primary school classroom. Several

heads were scratched as she explained that a corner of the room is carpeted and cut off from the rest of the class by bookshelves or cupboards. The carpet is a refuge for teacher and pupils alike.

Trudy Rood, from Luton Brook, north of Amsterdam, was less baffled than the others; she has spent four years teaching infants at her local village school. "We did not have the carpet, but I see what the idea means. We are used to using textbooks so the project-based approach will be very different, but I think it is exciting to do something different," she says.

"I think it is an advantage that English is not our first language because, from what we have been told, it is not the first language of some children in the schools where we will be going."

Veen, who has spent six months as a supply teacher, is very keen to return to England. "I love children and I liked England," she says.

Sonia Giershove is from Surinam, where she spent 20 years teaching primary age pupils. Although she fears that her English may need some polishing, she has no fears about multi-cultural Britain. "Surinam is a multicultural society. I think going to England is a challenge because if you are a teacher you want to teach all kinds of children."

Ravi Rabechiran is something of an exception to the general rule. A Tamil from Sri Lanka, he sought political asylum in The Netherlands and has just been granted Dutch citizenship. He spent 14 years as a teacher in his native country before being driven out by the internal war. Now he hopes to resume his teaching career in Hounslow.

"I know it is not going to be easy," he says. "But I have worked with the English and you cannot allow your life to come to a halt. I want to get back to my own job and there is no chance of doing that here."

The extent of the job shortage at home is demonstrated by Win Castermans, who has been unable to teach since qualifying eight years ago. He believes that coming to London will change all that. "If you can say that you have worked in England it will be much easier to get a job here," he says. "And it is exciting to do something you have never done before."

None of the students on the course lacked enthusiasm, and all seemed to share Mullard's belief that the exchange of teachers could help bring Europe closer together. He wants Euroselect to spread its area of operations to embrace the whole of the EC.

In the meantime, though, with 1,288 unfilled teaching vacancies in London alone, he has his work cut out helping to put Dutch teachers in front of English classes to prevent pupils being sent home.

Put that £75,000 in your pipe and smoke it

The solicitor who auctioned the kidnapped baby story to the tabloid Press is a Sicilian mother with 'blood that boils easily'

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Sister Superior

Solicitor Simonetta Hornby's first reaction to the telephone call which woke her on Saturday morning was: "Are they my clients? Don't they know I'm convalescing?" Nearing the end of a three-month convalescence period following a hysterectomy, Hornby had not been paying much attention to the case of the missing baby which had been dominating the media.

Now, on the day after the baby was found, she was being asked to represent Alexandra's parents, Dawn Griffiths and Jeffrey Harris, in their negotiations to sell their story to the tabloid Press.

"No, I did not jump out of bed," says the woman described by the media as "the fast-talking, pipe-smoking solicitor" scathingly. "I prepared myself for the job. I tried to learn as much as I could about the case while I was waiting for the minicab. I tried to find

out what one does in that sort of circumstance." What she actually did was to read the morning paper and discuss the matter with her partner, Marzia Levy, before settling herself behind the negotiating table at St Thomas's Hospital and auctioning her clients' story. It is not an expression she much likes. "I was instructed by my clients to deal with various offers they had received prior to my involvement," she says stiffly.

None the less, she admits that she was delighted with her achievement in selling the story for a reputed £75,000 to the *News of the World*. "I'd

certainly never done anything like it before. It was an entirely new departure for me." It is not, however, an activity she sees herself repeating. "How many solicitors end up selling stories to the newspapers?"

The 44-year-old Sicilian-born child-care solicitor is

normally more accustomed to representing parents who have been accused of sexually abusing their children. mothers whose children have been taken away from them, children who have been taken into care. Mostly, she does legal aid work. "I'm interested in children because I have two of my own," she says. She points out that Sicilian mothers' lives tend to revolve around their children. She doubts whether she will return to Sicily, where her family still lives; "I expect I shall go wherever my boys go." Her boys are George, aged 19, who is at Bristol University,

been lunching at the Reform Club, "never lukewarm about anything. Her blood boils easily." She already had an Italian law degree when she came to Britain to learn English. She studied in America, returned to England to marry, and then lived for two years in Zambia, where her husband was working. "I got a

job in debt-collecting for a firm of solicitors, where I suppose I learnt law and social services. I was very successful. I used to tell the debtors how little they could get away with and when I left the job I told them, 'Don't pay anything!'" She and Martin settled in Oxford, "had the children one after another and I decided to become a lawyer. I was advised by everybody to become a solicitor because I was a foreigner and a woman, and so I did." She did her articles in a City firm but found that she was too far away from her boys, "so one day I decided to be a mother and got a job with the London borough of Lambeth as a child-care solicitor".

In 1972 she and Levy set up their partnership on the top floor of the Hornbys' house, moving to rented accommodation before buying their current offices. She claims that she is not

ambitious, but "my sister says that I am". If Hornby has any ambitions, they are to "see greater respect given to the relationship between parents and children. I don't think I have got terribly personal ambitions. I like to enjoy life."

She says she was not concerned by the tarty unsympathetic reaction of the Sunday newspapers, who were deprived of their happy reunion quotes by her deal with the *News of the World*. "I told my clients that they should expect that and I expected it."

She was much more upset by the "newspapers' stupidity at getting so excited about my pipe. I really got cross about that, but then I realized that not many people smoke a pipe. I have been smoking one for 27 years and I bought this one for £15 in the City. It's a rubbish pipe."

Sally Brompton

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Earrings revisited

To celebrate its tenth anniversary the jewellery designer Cobra & Bellamy has produced a special, numbered edition, solid-silver charm bracelet and matching necklace featuring 14 hallmarked charms, which are replicas of its 14 most successful earring designs to date. The bracelet costs £390, the necklace £430, and *Times* readers can order either item for £10 off from Cobra & Bellamy, 149 Sloane Street, London SW1 (01-730 2823) where samples will be on display from this week (produce this cutting to obtain the discount).

The pieces will also be available soon from Liberty of Regent Street and the Joseph shop at 26 Sloane Street, London SW1.

Image boost

Joanne Foster, chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission, will introduce a one-day "Present a Professional Image Seminar" on Saturday April 7, hosted by *Good Housekeeping* magazine in association with the Industrial Society. Details and a ticket application coupon are in the *Return to Work Handbook*, free with the current issue of *Good Housekeeping*. Numbers are limited to 60 delegates at the £15 event (which includes lunch), so early booking is essential. There will be counselling and workshop sessions, and the event has been

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

put together with the guidance of the Industrial Society's Pepperell Unit and Reed Employment.

Quote me . . .



"Most of us women like men, you know. It's just that we find them a constant disappointment." Clare Short, MP

A good label

"Sick building syndrome" could become as extinct as smallpox if the Building Research Establishment's new "green label" scheme takes off. The BRE is exploring the possibility of an environmental assessment for buildings, encompassing internal and external environments". The green label would be made available to developers who pay to have their buildings assessed at the design

stage, and the assessors would check on, for example, carbon dioxide and other noxious emissions, and the presence of CFCs in materials and air-conditioning.

Initially the scheme will apply only to offices and supermarkets, but the BRE predicts that "environmental labelling for other types of buildings are likely to follow".

Weaker sex?

As the question of whether or not contemporary titles should be allowed to pass through the female line is being debated, a new book on warrior queens and noble ladies of the Middle Ages could offer some timely enlightenment about earlier precedents.

"Women who ruled", "women who prayed", "women as healers and mystics" are explored in *A Small Sound of the Trumpet: Women in Medieval Life*, a scholarly work by Margaret Wade Labarge (Hamish Hamilton, £29.99).

She makes little distinction between queens regnant and consort, lumping the mould-breaking Matilda in with Eleanor of Aquitaine and other strong-willed royal wives, and concentrating more on anecdote than analysis. But her tales of such women as Adela of Blois (daughter of William the Conqueror and wife of Stephen of Blois), who ruled the roost while her husband frittered away his energies on crusades, are inspirational and often amusing.

Victoria McKee

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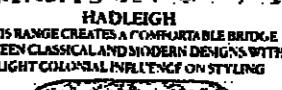
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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Striving for justice in camera

PAULA YOUNG

Imagine watching a video recording of a four-year-old girl demonstrating, with the use of dolls, how her father sexually abused her, and it is difficult to see how any jury could not be swayed by the evidence before its eyes.

But how reliable is such evidence? How suggestible are young children to being persuaded to say what one parent, pitted against another in a custody battle, wants them to say?

During the next two months these issues will be the subject of heated debate in the wake of radical proposals put forward last month by a Home Office committee on juvenile evidence. The committee, chaired by Judge Thomas Pigot, recommended that, for the first time in this country, evidence given on video by children — and other vulnerable witnesses, such as victims of rape — should be admissible in court.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children believes that more than 40,000 children are at risk in Britain from abuse or neglect, a figure which doubled between 1983 and 1987. The number at risk from specific sexual abuse has increased twelvefold; 6,700 were added to the child abuse register in 1988 alone.

Yet children rarely appear in court, not only because of the trauma involved, but also because the law does not consider children aged less than eight competent to give evidence.

Should a jury trust the evidence of a child? Alex Sutherland investigates

The result is that genuine cases are dropped.

Last year Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, set up a pilot scheme enabling children to give evidence outside the court, via closed-circuit television. But the first trial to use the video link collapsed when the alleged victim, aged 13, remained silent in front of the camera, and the judge directed the jury to acquit the defendant.

The Pigot committee recommended that two video recordings be made — one as soon after the event as possible, and another, which would take the form of a pre-trial out-of-court hearing in the presence of the judge and both the prosecuting and defending lawyers, to be admissible as evidence at the eventual trial.

The committee said children should be interviewed under strictly controlled circumstances in the presence of a social worker or psychiatrist, but also made provision for defence lawyers to cross-examine witnesses during the pre-trial hearing.

But the problem of children's reliability cannot be ignored. In Britain a report published last month on the accuracy of children's evidence

conducted by Professor Graham Davies, head of the psychology department at the University of Leicester, sought to show that there is no reason to suspect children will lie or fantasize about sexual abuse.

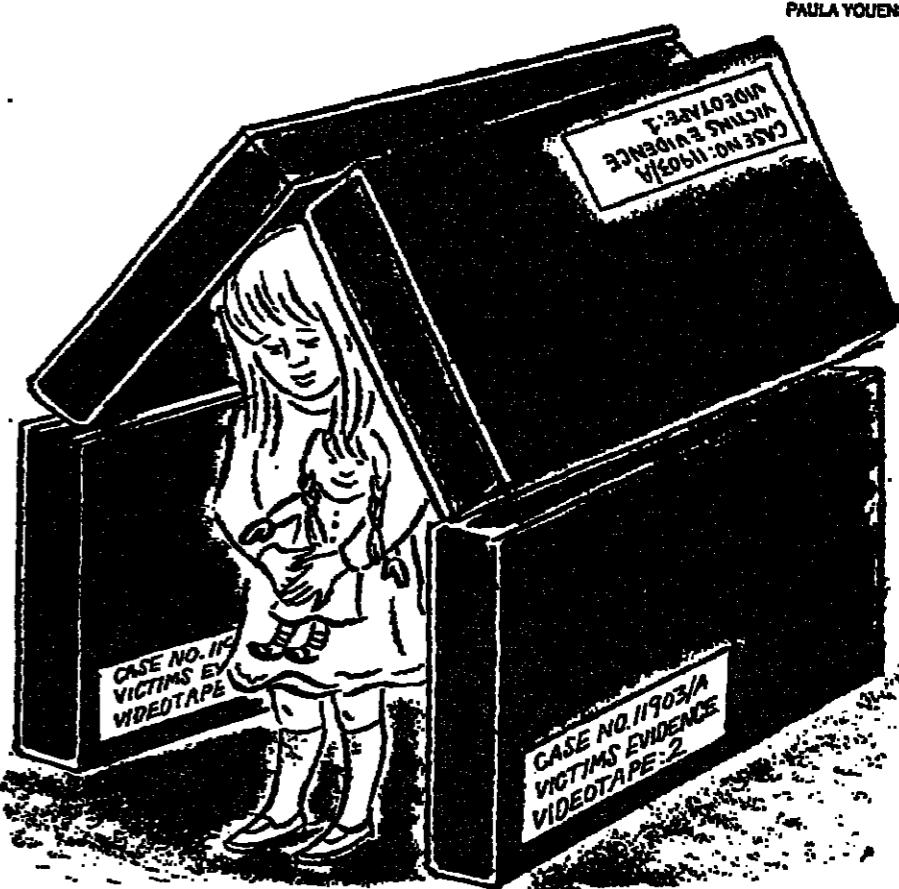
But scepticism has grown in the United States, where some states accept video recordings as evidence. Children are no longer as readily believed as they once were, partly as a result of studies which showed that witnesses, particularly younger ones, can be influenced by biased interrogators, and partly because of the vindictive use of offspring in settling divorce cases.

The battle over Hilary Foretich, the subject of a *40 Minutes* documentary tomorrow night on BBC2, is a case in point. Hilary's mother, Dr Elizabeth Morgan, a prominent plastic surgeon from Washington, DC, served more than two years in jail for contempt of court charges after refusing to reveal Hilary's whereabouts. Morgan accuses Dr Eric Foretich, Hilary's father, of having sexually abused the little girl — now aged seven — ever since he was granted visiting rights when she was a few months old.

He vehemently denies the charges. The NSPCC feels the Pigot reforms are long overdue, and sees the introduction of video-recorded evidence as an "absolute priority in establishing children's rights".

• *Hilary's in Hiding* will be shown tomorrow on BBC2 at 9.30pm.

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Beware the cowboy in a builder's hat

Home owners who bargain with the baddies risk more than a shoddy job

It is only in the old westerns that the baddies wear black hats. Most people cannot instantly tell the modern cowboy from the genuine builder, plumber or electrician. He looks and sounds the same and can also be found in the Yellow Pages.

The cowboy thrives on a simple human weakness few of us can resist: a bargain. His prices are lower because, he says, he does not bother with VAT or membership of a trade association. Nor does he need training: it is legal for anyone with a bag of tools to describe himself as an electrician, plumber or builder.

The problems arise when his skills fall short of his claims, and sometimes the results can be tragic.

This was demonstrated by the case of Nicholas French, who died as a result of a wiring error. The electrician had been called back to the house twice because pipework, radiators and the metal sink "were live", but he failed to notice that the circuit-breaker was faulty and the water pipes were not earthed properly.

This was not a simple case of an unawary householder employing a cowboy. This electrician, who was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to nine months in prison, suspended for two years, was subcontracted by the central heating installer.

According to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), it is important, when signing contracts, that householders check whether subcontractors are to be used, and who is liable if things go wrong. What else can you do to protect yourself against the unscrupulous or incompetent workman?

John Corfield, of the Institute of Trading Standards Administration, says: "We advise people not to accept the first quote, but to shop around. Ask neighbours and friends the contractor for a recommendation. Find out if he is a member of a trade association. It can make it easier to get redress if things go wrong."

"If he is not a member, and the value of the work involved is less than £500, you can go to a small claims court, which is much less formal than other courts. Above £500 you have to go through a normal county court."

Corfield welcomes the growing trend for trade associations to offer guarantees that the job will be finished, even if the original contractor goes bust. Central heating is covered by one such free scheme, offered by the 1,200 members of the Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association. It also provides the free services of another contractor should the first fail to honour his or her obligations. However, the scheme does not cover errors by subcontracted workers, such as electricians.

In the risk-prone building

'Speculative builders will try to save £50 on wiring a £50,000 house'

by Ann Kent

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INFORMATION for FEBRUARY

Th

THURSDAY

1 Dance: The Ballet du Nord from France with first performance of *Plat and Les d'amour*. Demgate, Northampton (to 3rd). Opera: New production of *Prince Igor*, Royal Opera House, London.

Rock: Eric Clapton at Royal Albert Hall, London (also 3,4,5,8,9,10); Simply Red at the London Arena. Theatre: David Hare's new play *Racing Demon*, with Barbara Leigh-Hunt. National Theatre (Cottesloe), London (opens Feb 8).

FRIDAY

2 Jazz: Yank Lawson at Pizza Express, London (and tomorrow).

Events: Needles and Pins exhibition of home crafts. Kensington Town Hall, London (to 11th). Cinema: *Far North*: Family drama written and directed by Sam Shepard. Cannon Tottenham Court Rd.

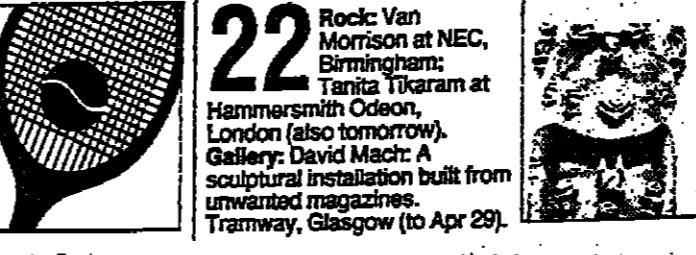


8 Theatre: Phyllida Lloyd's directorial debut with the Royal Exchange Theatre with *The Winter's Tale*. (To Mar 17). Premiere of Alice Walker's *Meridian*. Contact, Manchester.

Event: Cruft's Dog Show. Earls Court, Exhibition Centre, London (to 11th). Sport: Squash: Irish Open, Dublin (to 11th). Cinema: *Family Business*: A Sidney Lumet comedy-drama. Odeon Leicester Square.

15 Sport: Rackets: World Doubles Championship, Queen's Club, London (to 18th). Rock: Ian Hunter/Mick Ronson at the Octagon, Sheffield. The Quireboys at Buckley Tivoli.

22 Rock: Van Morrison at NEC, Birmingham; Tanita Tikaram at Hammersmith Odeon, London (also tomorrow). Gallery: David Mach: A sculptural installation built from unwanted magazines. Tramway, Glasgow (to Apr 29).

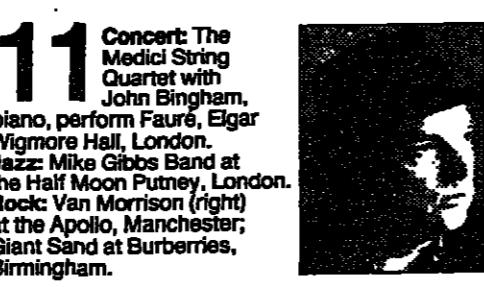


SATURDAY

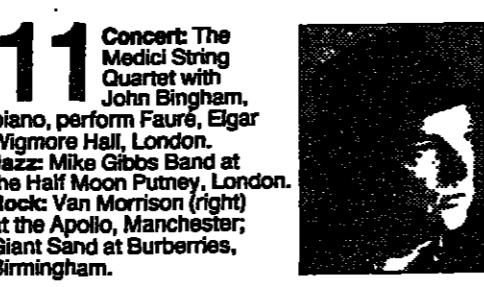
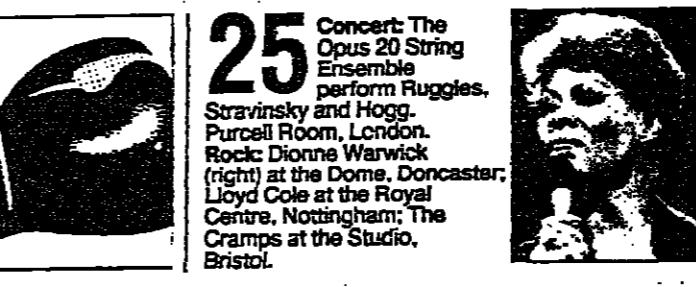
3 Sport: Basketball: Coca-Cola National quarter finals (and tomorrow); Fencing: Leon Paul Cup, men's foil international. De Beaumont Centre, London (and tomorrow); Football: FA Trophy, second round; Rugby Union: France v England, Paris; Ireland v Scotland, Dublin; France v England B, Paris. Events: Jorvik Viking Festival. Various venues around York (to 24th). Rock: Bob Dylan at Hammersmith Odeon (to 8th); Tanita Tikaram at the Hexagon, Reading; The Alarm at the Newport Centre, Gwent.



10 Sport: Rugby League: Silk Cut Challenge Cup, second round; Ice Skating: Skate Electric British short track speed championships. Humberside (and tomorrow); Football: FA Vase, fifth round; Rugby Union: Toto Gold Trophy, Newbury; Rugby Union: Pilkington Cup, fourth round. Jazz: Fazey Virji begins a tour at South Holland Centre, Spalding. Opera: Opera North's first night of *Show Boat*. Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon. Rock: The Alarm at the Corn Exchange, Cambridge; Van Morrison at the Empire, Liverpool; Tanita Tikaram at SECC, Glasgow.



16 Cinema: *Harlem Nights*: Eddie Murphy co-stars with Richard Pryor. Cannon Haymarket. Sport: Rugby League: British Coal Under 21 International: Great Britain v France, Doncaster. Rock: Barry Manilow (night) at NEC, Birmingham (also tomorrow).

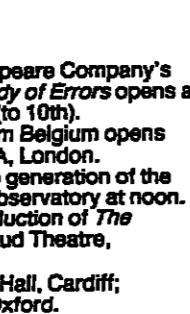


SUNDAY

4 Concert: Michael Tilson Thomas conducts the LSO in Miller with Fischer-Dieskau. Barbican Centre, London. Jazz: Art Farmer (right) at Leadenhall, Sheffield. Sports: Snooker: B & H Masters, Wembley Conference Centre; Racing: Wessel Cable Champion Hurdle, Leopardstown.



5 Theatre: English Shakespeare Company's production of *The Comedy of Errors* opens at the Theatre Royal, Bath (to 10th). Dance: Karin Wyckne from Belgium opens a week's programme at the ICA, London. News: The BBC takes over the generation of the time "pips" from Greenwich Observatory at noon. Opera: Travelling Opera's production of *The Barber of Seville*, Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford. Rock: The Alarm at St David's Hall, Cardiff; Tanita Tikaram at the Apollo, Oxford.



MONDAY

5 Theatre: English Shakespeare Company's production of *The Comedy of Errors* opens at the Theatre Royal, Bath (to 10th).

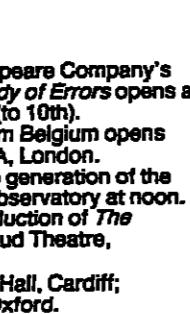
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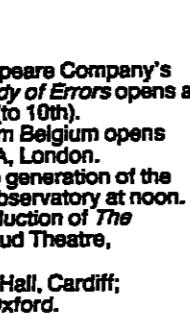
Rock: The Alarm at St David's Hall, Cardiff; Tanita Tikaram at the Apollo, Oxford.

12 Opera: Revival of *Don Pasquale*, Royal Opera House, London; Travelling Opera's production of *La Bohème*, Festival Theatre, Malvern. Rock: Newcastle; Barry Manilow at the Apollo, Manchester (to 14th). Event: Ulster Motor Show. King's Hall, Belfast (to 17th).



19 Sport: Squash: Welsh Open, Cardiff (to 25th). Rock: John Cale (right) at Royal Festival Hall, London. Jazz: Eberhard Weber at St George's, Bristol. Theatre: Michael Frayn's translation of the Soviet play *Exchange*. Vaudeville Theatre, London (opens Feb 22).

26 Rock: The Stranglers at Crawley Leisure Centre. Jazz: Danish Radio Big Band at Ronnie Scott's, London. Dance: Royal Ballet opens for one week with *La Bayadère* and *The Prince of the Pagodas*. Hippodrome, Birmingham.



TUESDAY

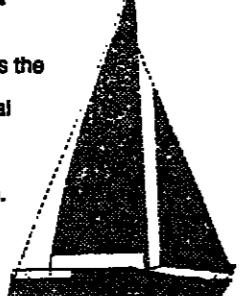
6 Dance: Northern Ballet Theatre with Christopher Gable's *Giselle*. City Hall, Hull, London. Opera: Travelling Opera's production of *La Bohème*, Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford.

Rock: The Alarm at Exeter University.

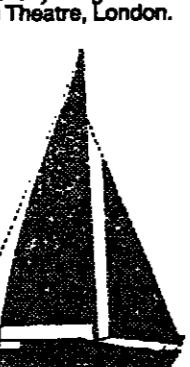
Event: Gun salutes to mark Accession Day. Hyde Park, London, at noon and the Tower of London at 1pm.

Theatre: World premiere of Anthony Burgess's *A Clockwork Orange*. Barbican Theatre, London.

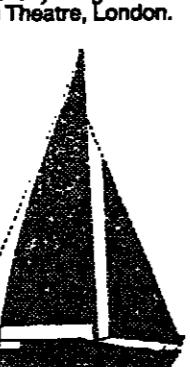
7 Concert: Michael Ashkenazy conducts the RPO in Strauss and Schoenberg. Hall, London. Gallery: Joseph Wright of Derby (1723-1787). Tate Gallery, London (to Mar 9). Event: Scottish Boat, Caravan, Camping and Leisure Show. SEC, Glasgow (to 11th).



13 Opera: Scottish Opera's new production of *La forza del destino*, Theatre Royal, Glasgow. Rock: Van Morrison at SECC, Glasgow; Ian Hunter/Mick Ronson (right) at Rock City, Nottingham; Giant Sand at Subterfuge, London.



20 Concert: Christopher Seed, piano, performs at St John's, Smith Square, London. Sport: Boxing: WBC International Championship, Hugo Corti v Chris Eubank, Basildon. Rock: The Stranglers at Torbay Leisure Centre; Lloyd Cole at the Apollo, Manchester; The Cramps at Barrowlands, Glasgow.



WEDNESDAY

7 Concert: Vladimir Ashkenazy conducts the RPO in Strauss and Schoenberg. Hall, London.

Gallery: Joseph Wright of Derby (1723-1787). Tate Gallery, London (to Mar 9). Event: Scottish Boat, Caravan, Camping and Leisure Show. SEC, Glasgow (to 11th).

14 Sport: Boxing: European Super Featherweight Title, Daniel Londas v Mark Reefer, International Centre, Brentwood; Football: Littlewoods Cup, semi-finals, first leg.

Rock: Tanita Tikaram (right) at the Royal Centre, Nottingham; The Alarm at UEA, Norwich.



21 Dance: Beppie Blankert offers a new work at The Place, London (and tomorrow). Opera: English National Opera's revival of *The Mikado*, Coliseum, London.

Rock: The Stranglers at Torbay Leisure Centre; Lloyd Cole at the Apollo, Manchester; The Cramps at Barrowlands, Glasgow.



28 Concert: The Moscow Soloists perform Bach, Schoenberg and Schnittke. Barbican Centre, London.

Sport: Football: Littlewoods Cup, semi-finals, second leg. Rock: UB40 (right) at NEC, Birmingham (also Mar 3).

Jazz: Steve Lacy Sextet begin tour at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London.



CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2090

ACROSS

1 German industrial area (4)

3 Sordid (5)

8 Coroner's inquiry (7)

10 Delight in (5)

11 Malaysian jungle knife (4)

12 Litter weakest (4)

13 Fox cub (3)

15 Biblical retribution (2,3,3,3)

17 Pole, perch (3)

19 Pillage (4)

20 First analytic psychologist (4)

23 Banter (5)

24 Gaping (7)

25 Fence steps (5)

26 Main plant axis (4)

DOWN

1 Instinct upon (7)

2 Attention (4)

4 Ultimate (8)

5 Russian peasant (5)

6 Cheat (4)

7 Blue-berried evergreen (5)

9 Word superiority (9)

14 Intolerable amount (8)

15 Sweet Asian spirit (6)

16 Deposited silt (7)

18 US conscription (5)

21 Sennie (4)

22 Taunt (4)

23 This (5)

25 Mere (5)

26 Avid (5)

27 Crop (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 2089

ACROSS: 1 Dantington 9 Ravioli 10 Vinyl 11 Toy 12 Bash 13 Bush 14 June 15 Daimyo 16 Gramme 17 Broddings 18 Alder 19 Grate 20 Tex 21 Umbria 22 Glad 23 This 24 Moza 25 Arise

DOWN: 1 Instinct upon (7)

2 Attention (4)

4 Ultimate (8)

5 Russian peasant (5)

6 Cheat (4)

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21 Sennie (4)

22 Taunt (4)

23 This (5)

25 Mere (5)

26 Avid (5)

27 Crop (5)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

LEPORINE (a) Concerned with hares or rabbits and other *Florey* *Mopseys*, rabbit, from the Latin *lepus*, *leporis* a hare: "The able psychiatrist who studies my case — and whom by now Dr Hibbert has plunged, I trust, into a state of leporine fascination." *SHOJI* (c) A screen of paper covering a wooden framework, forming a wall or sliding partition in Japanese homes, derived from the Japanese words who like to separate it: "He swung himself over the sill and dropped into her room, closing the shoji behind him." Presumably with chocolates.

KORORA (a) The fairy penguin, or little (blue) penguin, *Eudyptula minor*, smallest of all the penguins, the Maori name for it.

CUTHERBERT (c) A government employee or officer striking active service, from the 1917 musical song "Cuttherbert". Clarence and Claude.

KOROKA (a) The fairy penguin, or little (blue) penguin, *Eudyptula minor*, smallest of all the penguins, the Maori name for it.

CUTHERBERT (c) A government employee or officer striking active service, from the 1917 musical song "Cuttherbert". Clarence and Claude.

SHIRLEY VALENTINE Even 8 March 7.50pm. "The audience's response to Shirley's 'unreliable' and 'unconvincing' performance of the stage version of the 1972 film *Shirley Valentine* is unlikely to improve the play's standing." *Evening Standard*.

NOEL & GERTIE Even 8 March 7.50pm. "Noel Coward's 'exuberant' and 'charming' comedy 'Noel & Gertie' is a delightfully sprightly romp." *Evening Standard*.

SPARROW Even 8 March 7.50pm. "A sharp, witty and funny comedy." *Evening Standard*.

CHARLES CADDELL Even 8 March 7.50pm. "A brilliant, sprightly and witty comedy." *Evening Standard*.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK Even 8 March 7.50pm. "A superbly atmospheric and harrowing play for years." *Daily Mail*.

LONDON ASSURANCE Even 8 March 7.50pm. "A touching and moving drama." *Evening Standard*.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Even 8 March 7.50pm. "A gripping and atmospheric production." *Evening Standard*.

DAVE W

MILESTONES
Compiled by Peter Dear
and Gillian Maxey

Bob's home truths

TELEVISION CHOICE

Peter Waymark

Bob Symes is a genial and splendidly bewhiskered television all-rounder who can move effortlessly from enthusing about model railways to investigating the fate of Crown Prince Rudolf at Mayerling. More recently he has added welcome bairnes to *Tomorrow's World*. In *The House That Bob Built*, a film for Q.E.D. (BBC1, 9.30pm), he turns up as a super do-it-yourselfer with a bagful of tips on how to make our houses more efficient. His theme is that British house design is way behind the standards of Germany or Scandinavia. I lost count of the number of times he pointed out that such-and-such device had been common practice and/or a legal requirement in Germany for 30 (or 40 or even 60) years.



A bagful of tips: Bob Symes, outside the house that he built (BBC1, 9.30pm)

He asserts that much can be done at little expense, taking his model a house in the Milton Keynes Energy Park which went up in a mere eight weeks. Whether it is providing drinking water in the bathroom or taking unpleasant smells out of the smallest room, Bob has the answer. He tells us how to cut down fuel bills and save water. Some of his wrinkles are obvious when you think about them, such as having rear windows on the cold side of the house or setting power points at shoulder level to save people bending down. Triple glazing may sound claustrophobic, but what is good enough for the Germans should be good enough for us, particularly with the coming of a single European market. For a grand finale he demonstrates how he can sit on a railway platform several miles away and instruct the house, by remote control, to draw its curtains, switch on the lights and set the video.

• **Q.E.D.** is science at the popular end, Antennae (BBC2, 8.10pm) makes few concessions. It even has scientists presenting the items, instead of using television professionals to mediate for the uninitiated. Tonight's main item is on genetic fingerprinting, and how its reputation as an important new aid in convicting violent criminals has been undermined by two cases in the United States. The main drift of the argument is clear enough but I suspect that few will follow the scientific explanations that lie behind it. The same applies to a second item, on the effect of solar storms on the atmosphere, while the third offering is as much philosophical as scientific, a discourse on what western scientists might learn from the ideas of Islam.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW
News on the half-hour from 7.30am until 4.30pm, then at 7.30, 8.30 and 10.00pm.
5.00am Kiddi Brambles 6.30 Simon Mayo 6.30 Simon Bates 6.35 National Newsbeat 12.45 Mike Fenton 6.30 John Whittaker in the Afternoon 6.30-5.30 6.30 6.30 Mark Goodier 7.30 Adrian Juste 7.30 John Peel 19.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00-2.00am Richard Skinner

RADIO 2

FM Stereo and MW
News on the hour.
Headlines 7.00 Morning Concert: Anne (Symphony No 2: Canticello under Shepherd); Magnard (Overture, Op 10: Toulouse Capitole under Lefèvre); Ravel (Pavane); Liszt (Liebestraum); Brahms, Schubert, soprano, Vladimir Ashkenazy, piano)
7.30 News
7.30 Morning Concert (cont): Anne (Symphony No 2: Canticello); Toulouse Capitole under Andrew Parrott; Schubert ("Trout" Quintet; Members of Vienna Octet); Dvorák (Slavonic Dance Op 46 No 4); Brahms (Rhapsody Orchestra under Rudolf Kubelík))
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week: Anne (Sinfonia and Michael Williams); Rawsthorne (Sister, Madame Chrysanthème: Pro Arte Orchestra under the composer); Williamson (Scenes from The Happy Prince: Sinfonia Concertante) Quintet; Piano Duet; Perussion under Marcus Dods; Pauline Stevens, alto, April Cantallo, soprano; The Forest ("The Display": Sydney Symphony Orchestra under John Hopkins); Rawsthorne (Practical Cats); Philharmonic under the composer, with Robert Donat as the narrator)
9.35 Correll and Stott: Anne (The English Concert perform Correll (Trio Sonatas Op 1 Nos 1 and 7); Scarlatti (Harpischord Sonatas, Kk 544 and 545); Correll (Trio Sonatas Op 2 No 9; Op 1 No 3))
10.20 Singings and Duets of Britain: Derek Rapin, counter-tenor, Ian Partridge, tenor, Julius Drake, piano, performs Purcell, an Britten (Song of the Trumpet, Beat the Drum; Lost Is My Quiet for Ever; No Resistance Is But Virtue; Shepherd, Lure); Donald Swann (Troll for Tessie, Hold Her Fragments, Op 61)
11.00 Michael Chiose with Susan Shaw: Handel (Suite No 2 in F; Kenneth Gilbert, harpsichord); Holst (Suite to Be More: Sergeant Major; Overture; Suite in the Style of the Week: Cordon Singers under Best; with Catherine Denyer, mezzo; Poulenç (Concerto for violin and orchestra) in D minor; Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra)

BBC1

6.30 Breakfast News and Commonwealth Games: Steve Rider introduces coverage of the Commonwealth Games, including the London opening ceremony. Plus regular news headlines, business and financial reports, regional news, weather and travel information.
9.30 Klimov: Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject.
10.00 News and weather followed by Going for Gold (r):

10.25 Children's BBC: presented by Simon Parkin, begins with *Playdays*. Mark Sennell tells the tale of *King Canute* 10.30 *Robbers* 10.45 *Five to Seven*. Oscar James with a reading.
11.00 News and weather followed by Commonwealth Games: Helen Rollason introduces further coverage of the seventh day of the Games, including the latest boxing results. With news and weather at 12.00, 12.30
Regional news and weather 1.00: *One O'Clock News* with Philip Heywood. Weather.

1.30 At the last minute: Mrs Mangel's wedding ceremony is thrown into jeopardy; Jim has another attempt at healing the rift with Beverly, and Mike tries to find out what really happened to Jessie.
1.50 Game for Gold: Henry Kelly hosts another round of the European general knowledge quiz.
2.15 Knots Landing: Unbroken Bones: The police suspect that Joshua has been murdered, while Mac finds that Jill Bennett has walked back into his life. Starring Ted Shackelford, Joe Van Arsi, Donna Mills and Teri Austin.
3.05 PrimeTime: Magazine series for the older viewer presented by David Jacobs. This week's edition includes Sheila McLean reporting from the ski-slopes of Austria on holidays aimed specifically at older people; the Jet Set, featuring the ton-tomorrow the Roy Fayers, proving that you are never too old to sing and dance. In addition, David Jacobs asks Noel Josephines from the Association of Independent Tour Operators why single travellers have to pay more.
3.40 Popeye Double Bill: *Innuit the Sun* and *Doggone You, Gopher*: Starring Tom Hanks and Mac starring Michael Barrymore 4.10 *SuperTed* 4.25 *Jackanory*, Lynda Bellingham with part three of *Oskar and the Ice-Pick* 4.35 *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles*
5.00 Newround 5.10 Little Sir Nicholas: Episode five of the children's drama serial and Nicholas' pet pony goes missing.
5.25 Neighbours (r): (Cestax)
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harmer: Weather 6.30 Commonwealth Games. Today... Desmond Lynn introduces highlights from today's action in Auckland, including boxing semi-finals, the men's bowls singles final, the men's 100m sprint final in cycling and the rhythmic all round final in gymnastics. Plus badminton, judo and shooting.
8.00 Drama: *Pride and Prejudice*. JR and Cally have an unexpected visitor at Soho. They find the solution to the mysterious kiss. Miss Ellis makes a move that shocks Clayton, and newcomer James Beaumont makes a loud impression on the Ewing family. (Cestax)
8.30 Points of View presented by Anne Robinson:
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis: Regional news and weather
9.30 Q.E.D.: The House That Bob Built: (Cestax) (see Choices)
10.00 Sports: Football including Steve Rider. The line-up includes Football highlights from FA Cup fourth round replay with commentary from John Motson; Figure Skating: the European championships from Leningrad featuring the pairs' free programme. Plus further coverage of the Games in Auckland, where there are seven more athletics medals to be won, including, at 6.10, the men's 5,000m final. Other finals include the men's long jump, the men's and women's 800m, the men's and women's 200m, and women's javelin. There is also the latest on the cycling and bowls. The commentators in Auckland are David Coleman, Ron Pickering, Brendan Foster and Paul Dickenson

TELEVISION & RADIO

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am begins with News and Good Morning Britain, presented by Richard Keys and, from 7.00, by Mikki Morris and Loraine Kelly. Introducing the London evening news. Plus regular news headlines, business and financial reports, regional news, weather and travel information.

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BBC2

8.15 Westminster: Yesterday's proceedings in Parliament, presented by Peter Mayne. **8.30 Ceefax** Daytime on Two speed 8.30 German for beginners 10.45 For the very young 10.45 Education Structure 10.45 Education Structure 11.15 Learning to read 11.15 Stories depicting real life 11.25 The management of learning 12.10 Science of the motor car 12.30 You and your health 12.35 Effective communication 1.20 *Bertha 1.40 The Odyssey*

2.00 The Time . . . The Place . . . Mike Scott A discussion on a topical subject

3.00 This Morning: Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Special features today include agony aunt Denise, today's agony aunt to solve your personal problems; details of voluntary organizations that need help, and microwave recipes. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather.

12.10 Antenna: For the young 12.20 Home and Away. Sparks fly when Moran moves in with Cells.

1.00 News and weather followed by a children's story (r):

2.00 Country File: Dan Chernington reports from Oregon, Normandy, the West of Ireland and Hampshire's River Trent, on winter's sporting challenges. 2.20 Antennae 2.30 Antennae 2.45 Enjoy! The collections of John Arrott (r)

3.00 News and weather followed by Wild World: *The Royal Forest*, narrated by Tony Britton (1.30) 3.30 News regional news and weather

4.00 Catchword: Word game 4.00 *DEF II begins with The Invisible Man* (1.30) *Reportage 7.40*

5.00 Film 90 with Barry Norman (r) 5.30 *Holiday 90* (r) (Cestax)

6.00 DEF II begins with The Invisible Man (1.30) *Reportage 7.40*

7.00 Movie Catchers Up with: Mavis Nicholson talks to the best-selling black woman writer Maya Angelou, whom she first met in 1984

8.00 Win or Lose: Game show hosted by Danny Baker 8.25 *Thames News and weather 1.30 Santa Barbara* In an attempt to outwit Peter and the hostesses he's holding, Kelly and a polka-dotted swap clothes. Followed by *Cheers*.

9.00 Coronation Street: Mavis receives a postcard which brings back memories and heralds a disturbing day for her. (Oracle)

10.00 Film: *A View to a Kill* (1985) starring Roger Moore, Christopher Walken, Lois Chiles and Timothy Dalton. A Soviet submarine is found to be the exact replica of the British Government's secret model and James Bond is called in to discover how this has happened. Directed by John Glen. (Oracle) (continues after the news)

10.30 News at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Julia Somerville: Weather 10.30 *Thames News and weather 1.30 Coronation Street* A repeat of Monday's episode

11.00 Film: *Ice Skating: The European Figure Skating Championships* from Leningrad featuring the pairs' free programme. Plus further coverage of the Games in Auckland, where there are seven more athletics medals to be won, including, at 6.10, the men's 5,000m final. Other finals include the men's long jump, the men's and women's 800m, the men's and women's 200m, and women's javelin. There is also the latest on the cycling and bowls. The commentators in Auckland are David Coleman, Ron Pickering, Brendan Foster and Paul Dickenson

12.00 Behind the Headlines: See 4.30. Ends at 12.35am

CHANNEL 4

8.00 The Channel Four Daily 8.25 Schools

12.00 The Parliament Programme introduced by Sue Cameron

12.30 Business Daily: Financial and Economic news presented by Susannah Simon

1.00 Sesame Street: Pre-school learning series

2.00 The Cavers: Part four - learning to care (r). (Oracle)

2.30 European Figure Skating Championships from Leningrad. Coverage of the ladies and pairs competitions

3.40 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Should women be tough or tender with their children?

4.30 Crossroads: Today's challenger is Brian Dutton from Kent. Richard Whiteley is the questionmaster assisted by Martin Jarvis

5.00 Bob Goes to Hospital: The guest is Polly James

5.30 Country Days: Pevensey Levels in Sussex and five March days. (r) (Oracle)

6.00 Film of Greatness: John Paul Jones, Father of the American Navy (r). (Oracle)

6.30 A Different World: American college campus comedy (Oracle)

7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zelah Cadwallader:

7.50 Party Political Comment from a Liberal Democrat politician. Followed by *Woman's Hour*

8.00 Brookside: Both Caroline and Harry receive some unexpected news in the post. (Oracle)

8.30 Dispatches: Cancer. A new chemical has been found which may provide a cure for cancer.

Tonight's programme looks into its research and development.

9.15 Signals: Acme's Footlights: This evening's programme looks at the role and power of theatre critics. Those facing questions and comments from the studio audience are Milton Shulman, Charles Osborne, Michael Cowen and John Studd.

10.00 Film of Greatness: John Paul Jones, Father of the American Navy (r). (Oracle)

10.30 News: John Paul Jones, Father of the American Navy (r). (Oracle)

11.00 Beyond 2000: *The Reporters* 8.30

11.30 Frank Bough: *Frank Bough 1.30 Newsline 10.30 The Reporters 11.30 NBC Nightly News 12.30 NBC Newsline 12.30 Frank Bough 1.30 Newsline 4.30 Frank Bough 1.30 Newsline 5.30 Frank Bough 1.30 Newsline 6.30 Frank Bough 1.30 Newsline 7.30 Frank Bough 1.30 Newsline 8.30 Frank Bough 1.30 Newsline 9.30 Frank Bough 1.30 Newsline 10.30 Frank Bough 1.30 Newsline 11.30 Frank Bough 1.30 Newsline*

Warning of civil war in Romania

From Christopher Walker
Bucharest

The leaders of Romania's main opposition party yesterday said that civil war was likely unless tomorrow's round-table talks slackened the grip of former Communists on the interim National Salvation Front Government.

Their fears have been conveyed to the interim President, Mr Ion Iliescu, who has so far ruled out the dismissal of former Communists from the National Salvation Front. A leading member of the Front, Professor Silviu Brucan, has hit back by accusing the fledgeling opposition of trying to link up with students to stage a "putsch" at its weekend protest rally.

The spectre of renewed fighting is being treated seriously by Western diplomats, who are aware of the passions aroused by the December revolution and the deep divisions inside the country which have come to the surface since.

"We are dealing here with a nation that has been traumatized," one European envoy explained, "and it is one where many people still have access to weapons."

The conflict is rapidly becoming a class struggle, with industrial workers lining up behind the Front, while the

Photograph 7

opposition consists mainly of students, intellectuals and agricultural labourers embittered by memories of forced collectivisation.

Although the Front supporters claim that their marches have been spontaneous, critics allege that the old Communist Party structure is still in place under a different name and has been used to mobilize instant demonstrations.

The opposition says that pay increases have been offered to those who turn out on the streets to back the Front, although this is denied by the Front's spokesmen.

Temper have been further inflamed by widespread allegations of corruption and inefficiency in the distribution of foreign aid sent since the overthrow of the Ceausescu dictatorship. Even the chief of one of Bucharest's crowded orphanages has been accused of filtering off food and other aid intended for her charges.

The civil war warnings came as death threats against the leaders of the right-wing National Peasants' Party were being referred to Amnesty International. The party has demanded extra personal protection and defiantly announced its determination to continue its crusade against communism.

French fries? The decor reinforces the international flavours



Gamburger or chizburger sir? Soldiers guarding the Moscow Big Mac come face to face with young Russian waiters all trained to McDonald's standards

From Mary Dejersky, Moscow

A portion of the American dream came to Pushkin Square, Moscow, yesterday when the biggest McDonald's hamburger restaurant in the world made its debut for the benefit of the Press.

To Western eyes it looked more or less like any other McDonald's. But Soviet journalists blushed when they went in. The cleanliness, the brightness, the space, the high chairs for the children...

Contemplating what she described as "this dazzling palace" one journalist said the secret of McDonald's would be harder for Russians to penetrate than the B-2 bomber.

She was not far wrong. The McDonald's code is as distant from the realities of Soviet life as it is possible to be.

Scarcely were we through the door than beaming young assistants, neatly uniformed, with badges saying "Can I help you?" bounced up to offer order slips. There were young Russians running for burgers, crowding round the tills, sweeping the floor, polishing the tables and saying (in

Russian): "Thank you for coming."

Twenty-year-old Marina, her smile (unlike some) thoroughly genuine, said she loved the work. She, like many, was a student, working about 15 hours a week - so introducing to Moscow another American notion, that of working your way through college.

It was far cry from the surly *babushka* of the average Soviet restaurant, and if the French fries were not quite as light as in the West, the milkshakes more liquid, the McDonald's "gamburger" and "chizburger" are available, hot and readily affordable by most Russians (though a "Big Mac" at 3 rubles 75 kopecks - the price of a solid Russian restaurant meal - might have to be saved for treats).

The Moscow McDonald's story began 15 years ago, when Mr George Cohen, president of McDonald's, Canada, started talks with the Russians. There were many hurdles; but now McDonald's has a purpose-built factory three-quarters of an hour out of

Moscow, built by foreigners to American standards. There the company has its own cattle, potato fields and pasteurization equipment. Western and Soviet "evaluators" work side by side, checking the French fries.

Some questions remain. To see young Russians dressed as young Americans is suddenly to relativise how relatively small, unsophisticated and poorly nourished most of them look. And then, not everyone in Moscow favours the Western way of life. McDonald's may develop enemies.

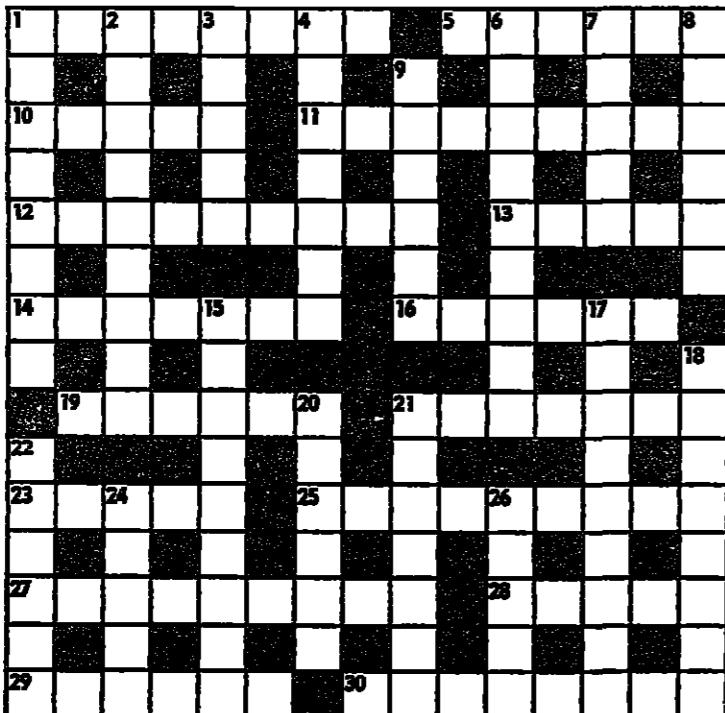
When the Canadian managers and instructors have gone home, will the Soviet team be able to sustain their "dazzling palace" in this wilderness of mediocrity?

With an estimated clientele of up to 15,000 people a day, queues are expected in Pushkin Square. But, as Mr Cohen said: "The thing is that when they get to the end of the line, there is going to be food." If that promise alone is kept, it will make the Moscow McDonald's queue unique.



French fries? The decor reinforces the international flavours

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,205



- ACROSS**
- Fish salesman heading for disgrace (8).
 - Dig in six feet of water (6).
 - Eight-line poem not allowed - it's always this many (5).
 - The author does not have a strong case here (3-4).
 - Cold? Well, perhaps like a philosopher (9).
 - Mountainous girl reveals nothing about a daughter (5).
 - French novelist gets rid of a fine set of baby-clothes (7).
 - One given to sacking is about to buy new machinery (6).
 - Adverse criticism by journalist came off (6).
 - Raleigh's was painted by Robin when young (7).
 - Hot ones cause gasps (5).
 - Suitable sort of carriage for Richard III (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,204

SLIP UP	CUSHIONS
L R A O O N I	
P A R O X Y S M A L G I G I	
M U S E E I L H	
H A U S F R A U T R E A T Y	
T I S P A C	
A S T I T O R T I L L A	
T A I D Y N U	
W I N N I N G S T A B U	
M T C O E	
H U N T E R R E F I N E R Y	
L I L E A F S E	
B A R B P A T I S S E R I E	
T I C C E L G	
V E R A N D A H T R Y I N G	

- Answers on page 20**
- AA ROADWATCH**
- For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.
- London & SE traffic, roadworks**
- C. London (within N & S Circ), 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 734
M-ways/roads M25-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736
National traffic and roadworks
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
North Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

Concise crossword, page 20

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

LEPORINE

- a. Rabbit
 - b. Factiously witty c. Pertaining to leprosy
 - c. Paper screen
- KORORA**
- a. The fairy penguin
 - b. A gibbons moun
 - c. A herbal tissue
- CUTHBERT**
- a. To speak affectedly
 - b. A small pocket knife
 - c. A shinker

Answers on page 20

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circ), 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 734
M-ways/roads M25-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
North Anglia 741
North-west England 742
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Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

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Concise crossword, page 20

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Chivenor, Devon, 11C (52F); lowest day temp: Cawdor, Highland, Scotland, 8C (46F); highest rainfall: St Neots, Cambridgeshire, 1.0 in; highest sunshine: Edinburgh, 1.5 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 8C (46F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F); Rain: 24 hr to 8 pm, 0.01 in. Sun: 24 hr to 8 pm, 2.5 hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 8C (46F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 6C (43F); Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.17 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.0 hr.

Weathercall is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

Concise crossword, page 20

Listed MPs dial M for Margaret

- BUSINESS & FINANCE 23-29
- MEDIA & MARKETING 30-31
- PROPERTY 37,39
- LAW 40
- SPORT 40-46

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6810 (+0.0015)
W German mark 1.9251 (+0.0104)

Exchange Index 88.9 (+0.4)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1853.0 (-10.9)
FT-SE 100 2322.0 (-6.8)

USM (Datastream) 155.40 (-0.37)

Market report, page 29

Swiss loan of £135m

Swiss Bank Corporation is putting up £135 million to finance a 224 megw power station to be built near Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, by the Swiss company Asea Brown Boveri, which will supply electricity to the North Western Electricity Board. The station will run on natural gas supplied by British Gas. First deliveries of electricity are expected in late 1991.

Poor Aim

Aim Group slumped 63p to 210p following a downturn in pre-tax profits from £2.08 million to £1.3 million in the six months to end-October. The interim dividend stays at 24p. *Tempus*, page 24

Dividend up

Throgmorton Trust, which owns Framlington management group, has raised its dividend by 20 per cent to 3.18p for the year to end-November. But fully diluted net asset value fell from 102.22p to 99.26p per 5p share. *Tempus*, page 24

STOCK MARKETS

New York: Dow Jones 2532.43 (-20.95)
Tokyo Nikkei Average 37215.67 (+41.97)
Hong Kong: Hang Seng 2760.70 (-8.06)
Amsterdam: CBS Tendency 112.6 (+1.0)
Sydney ASX 1695.8 (+11.2)
Frankfurt: DAX 1612.57 (+1.02)
Paris: CAC 524.31 (+3.61)
Zurich: SCA Gen 599.9 (+1.4)
London: FT-A All Share 1161.24 (-3.08)
FT- "500" 1282.84 (-5.54)
FT Gold Mines 522.50 (-5.51)
FT Industrial 80.92 (-0.74)
FT Govt Secs 81.64 (-1.30)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises:
A Kershaw 575p (+10p)
Lang Properties 595p (+15p)
Whitman Reave 420p (+10p)
Rex Org 754p (+10p)
Antofagasta 520p (+10p)
Pearson 7361p (+11p)
Lamco 610p (+12p)
P Dillon 4605p (+36p)
Bar & WA 'A' 255p (+20p)

Falls:
SA Breweries 5875p (-45p)
AIM 220p (-55p)
Glen 220p (-55p)
Giese 715p (-12p)
Hawker Siddeley 6715p (-11p)
News Corp 552p (-30p)
Utd Newspapers 406p (-18p)
Bordland 572p (-12p)
Prestige 450p (-20p)
Prestige 265p (-30p)
L Newark Closing prices 120p (-10p)
Bargains 25970
SEAG Volume 493.7m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 15%
3-month Interbank 15%
15%
UK Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8.75%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.75-7.74%
30-year bonds 9.42%-9.4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
\$ 51.6210 £ 2.1935
\$ 12.9261 £ 1.5705
\$ 592.5055 £ 59.14855
\$ 195.6118 £ 19.7080
\$ 1942.37 £ 194.00
Index 88.9
ECU 21.722200 SDR ED 7.92633
£ 12.384443 SDR 1.26167

GOLD

London Fisher:
AM \$417.80 pm-\$418.15
close \$418.75 pm-\$419.25 (248.25)
New York
Comex \$417.80-\$418.00

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (barrel) ... \$15.90/bbl (\$19.95)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$ Bank Bank
Australian Sch 2.28 2.08
Canada \$ 26.62 19.45
Denmark Kr 6.16 4.25
Finland Mark 7.05 6.55
Germany DM 11.35 10.75
Greece Dr 2.25 2.25
Hong Kong \$ 12.78 12.05
Italy Lira 1.12 1.05
Japan Yen 210.25 200.00
Netherlands Gld 2.25 2.12
Norway Kr 11.41 10.75
New Zealand \$ 2.25 2.00
South Africa Rand 1.65 1.25
Spain Pta 155 177
Sweden Kr 10.88 10.20
Switzerland Fr 2.715 2.455
Turkey Lira 2.25 2.25
USA \$ 1.765 1.665
Venezuela Bol 1.00 1.00
Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travel cheques.
Retail Price Index: TBS (December)

* ★ ★ ★ ★

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31 1990

23

Receiver turns attention to Dominion's luxury Spanish property

BCI team studies flats link

By Martin Waller

Money lost by investors in the Gibraltar-based Barlow Clowes International may have been used to purchase Costa del Sol apartment property being developed by Dominion International, the financial services operation which collapsed two weeks ago.

BCI is known to have put some of the money it received from investors into property ventures in southern Spain. So far, two flats in Marbella have been identified.

Other money is thought to have gone into Dominion Beach, a luxury leisure development being built just outside Estepona.

Ernst & Young, joint receiver of

BCI, said it had no proof investors' money had gone to Dominion. But Mr Ken Robinson, the partner in Gibraltar with responsibility for the BCI affair, confirmed that inquiries had already been made with lawyers and others connected with the development.

"Because they [the apartments] were all placed into individual companies, it's very difficult to find out who the beneficial holders are if they don't want to be known," he said.

It is also becoming clear that, contrary to earlier accounts, all the loans from the banks on the Dominion balance sheet were unsecured. Banks advanced £70 mil-

lion, without any guarantee of recovering it, to a company with a chequered City record which, at the time of the shares suspension in September, had a market capitalisation of barely half that.

The main lender is the Royal Bank of Scotland, with outstanding loans of more than £30 million which have already been the subject of bad debt provisions made at the bank's financial year end. Mr Robert Maiden, managing director of the lending bank itself, yesterday refused to comment on why Dominion had been allowed to run up such a huge loan.

"Dominion have been cus-

tomers for many years. We never discuss any detail relating to any particular customer," he said.

The Spanish development is one of the assets likely to be sold to recoup debts of more than £100 million at Dominion, since Price Waterhouse, the administrator, has completed its review of the group.

The site was acquired by Mr Max Lewinson, Dominion's former chairman five years ago. Mr Lewinson was subsequently forced out by shareholder pressure at the annual meeting in August.

Dominion Beach was built in two phases. A second site, named Dominion Heights, is, as yet, entirely undeveloped. The Spanish development is held through Sar-

mia Mutual Supply, a Guernsey-based company, which last week went into liquidation as a result of the collapse of Dominion.

One expert on the southern Spain property scene commented: "Phase one sold well — it was a fantastic development and marketed well in Gibraltar."

This pattern was followed successfully on phase one. But phase two, which coincided with the first signs of financial trouble at Dominion, was started with the first-line properties nearest the sea first, reducing profits eventually available. "I suspect that the reason they did it was that during the beginning of 1989 they were strapped for cash," the expert said.

CBI predicts job cuts as slump 'nears'

By Colin Narborough, Economics Correspondent

Manufacturers will cut investment and jobs in the months ahead in response to the profit squeeze caused by rising costs as the economy moves close to recession, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday.

The warning accompanied its quarterly industrial trends survey which showed the fifth decline in a row in business confidence and the sharpest quarterly fall since October 1980.

Mr David Wigglesworth, chairman of the CBI's economic situation committee, said the latest survey showed that Britain was "poised on the edge" of recession. The message for Mr John Major, the Chancellor, was that he should take action in the Budget to encourage investment in manufacturing.

Investment intentions have weakened further since the autumn among the 1,277 firms surveyed. Only 27 per cent are planning to invest more in the next 12 months, compared with 35 per cent expecting to authorize less capital expenditure. The negative balance of 8 per cent is the worst since October 1982.

Mr Wigglesworth said the investment picture showed a "very dangerous trend" which threatened to cause short-term pain and erode the longer-term competitiveness of British manufacturing as the single European market neared.

He acknowledged that record exports provided some good news, but noted that half of manufacturing industry would not benefit from it.

Exports, which helped narrow the trade gap sharply last month, have recovered strongly, according to the survey. About 27 per cent of

firms are more optimistic about exports than four months ago. Only 10 per cent are less optimistic.

But, Mr Wigglesworth said, manufacturers were facing considerable problems. "Domestic orders are falling. Output is flat. Prices are being squeezed by competition."

Manufacturers are therefore having to cut their own costs wherever possible and this is being done primarily by

Comment 25

reducing the numbers of employees and by holding back their investment plans.

Overall demand fell for the second successive survey, though more slowly than expected. Almost one firm in three took fewer orders in the past four months, while one in four reported higher orders. In the next four months, 26 per cent expect lower orders and 21 per cent more orders.

Output showed no increase for the second quarter in a row and promises to stay broadly unchanged in the coming months. Unit costs in manufacturing meanwhile appear to have eased slightly in the last four months and prices continued to rise moderately, but costs and prices are expected to increase more rapidly this quarter.

The CBI expects unemployment to rise to about 10,000 a month in the first half of this year.

Of firms surveyed, 28 per cent expect to lay off workers in the next four months. Only 9 per cent expect to take on more labour. This worsening of the trend in employment expectations contrasts with sustained rises between October 1987 and last summer.

The CBI expects unemployment to rise to about 10,000 a month in the first half of this year.

They said had not been discussed with them.

The union recently rejected

the bank's offer of a 7.75 per cent pay rise linked to a job evaluation package, which could mean pay cuts for some managers.

Barclays will keep 2,300 of its branches open until 4.30 pm from April 23. This follows the lead by Lloyds

Bank for late opening at 200 branches, but only for advice and automatic services, not counter business.

Now the pressure is on Midland and National Westminster to follow the lead of their competitors.

Barclays said that the decision for late opening was the result of a survey of 1.5 million customers in the branches last summer, when most called for longer hours. Bifus leaders condemned the move, which

they said had not been discussed with them.

Last year, the management of Ferranti Computer Maintenance Systems, based at Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester, had been examining an MBO, but news of Ferranti's financial problems scuppered talks. The business was sold in December to ServiceTec for £17 million.

So far, Ferranti has potentially raised about £360 million from asset sales. This week it is trying to renegotiate £350 million of short-term borrowings from a syndicate of about 30 banks to enable Ferranti to cancel a £187 million rights issue and postpone an extraordinary general meeting on February 5.

The French Government has cleared the British Aerospace (BAe) and Thomson-CSF joint venture in guided weapons, to be known as Eurodynamics. The venture will create Europe's biggest missile business with sales of £1.4 billion.

Electronics industry analysts said the Industrial Electronics division is a marginal business with turnover of about £40 million. They said Ferranti should get no more than £10 million, or

about 7 times earnings, for the businesses involved in the MBOs. Of that, the lasers operation, with a sales and support operation in Chicago, should fetch about £8 million.

The group also said it is to dismiss 130 of the 535 staff employed by Ferranti Industrial Electronics in that city.

The company, which embarked on an asset disposal programme after uncovering a £15 million fraud, said the two MBOs should be settled by the end of March. No price was given, but Ferranti said the businesses had a combined turnover of £16 million.

Ferranti said the Dundee operation had been disappointing over the past year, and that plans to make the business more profitable had been hampered by a 14-week work-to-rule in the factory. The group said it would go ahead with the redundancies regardless of whether or not the MBOs proceed.

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TEMPUS

Laing Properties in danger of becoming too hot to hold

Shares in Laing Properties gained another 14p yesterday, taking their rise over the past fortnight to 114p. At 594p, the hitherto rather sleepy Laing Props has suddenly become £350 million worth of hot stuff.

The danger is that when things hot up, someone gets burned. Investors chasing the present bid stories even higher should bear that in mind.

This particular story has been around a long time – it is nearly 18 months since Elliott Bernard's Chelsfield group – now the owner of 15 per cent – revealed its presence. A bid premium has been in the Laing price ever since. So when the shares jump nearly 20 per cent in two weeks it is time to start wondering whether there is much value left.

Through his patience Mr Bernard has made life difficult for the Laing board. He first revealed his stake in July 1988, leaving the board plenty of time to grow used to the idea that a bid might be on its way. It got the message and the company came out with an impressive revaluation for December 1988. Net asset per share rose from 417p to 644p, a rise of more than 50 per cent.

But 1989 was a very different year for property, with valuations coming under particular pressure at Laing's December year end. When the company reports in March some expect little change in the asset figure. If they are right the shares are too expensive. Over-cautious perhaps, but worth bearing in mind.

Rush & Tompkins

Rush & Tompkins left analysts very much in a guessing mood yesterday having chosen to play its cards close to the chest. While interim pre-tax profit to end-September was up from £5.32 million to

Sturge pays £2.15m for HHJL

Sturge Holdings, Lloyd's largest managing agent, has pushed its capacity up by £76 million to £1.05 billion by acquiring Hall Harford Jeffreys Langdale for £2.15 million.

HHJL managed 168 Lloyd's names, increasing Sturge's total to 2,622. Sturge now accounts for 10.5 per cent of Lloyd's underwriting capacity.

HHJL will become part of Sturge's Oxford Group.

Credit move

Spyhawk, the property development company, has signed a £120 million revolving credit facility, which will replace all the company's existing direct borrowings. The margin on the facility – arranged by Barclays Syndication and syndicated to 25 banks – is 0.75 per cent.

Shelton ahead

Martin Shelton, the USM stationery and business gift company, made pre-tax profits of £80,000 (£67,000) for the six months to end-September, on turnover of £1.3 million (£1.02 million). The interim dividend rises to 0.75p from 0.5p, on earnings per share of 1.04p (0.88p).

Losses cut

Bristol Channel Ship Repair suffered a pre-tax £15,657 loss in the half year to mid October, a recovery from the £30,901 deficit suffered last time. There is again no dividend.

REI merger

Rowe Evans Investments is to merge with Jira Rubber Plantations in a deal which values the latter at £6.25 million. Terms are 11 new REI shares for each 12 Jira already held.



Outcome depends on sales being finalized: Nigel Dunnett, of Rush & Tompkins, yesterday

Throgmorton Trust

The results reflect the sale of four developments, and as the group, whose managing director is Mr Nigel Dunnett, warns the outcome for the year will depend on whether certain sales now under negotiation are finalized.

Hochef, the West German construction company, holds a 27 per cent stake and through the association the Germans will be given opportunities to handle infrastructure projects in Britain.

The full interim period and the question mark over whether negotiations will be finalized in the second half sees the interim dividend held at 4p a share, payable April 6.

If the second half does turn up trumps, Rush could be on

target.

After two years of virulent takeover disputes, resignations and management changes, it is hard to think of Throgmorton Trust as an investment trust. Yet the traditional concentration on small company portfolio investment – rather than the third of assets tied up in the unquoted Framlington investment group and R Green Properties – accounts for

most of the marked asset under-performance in the year to end November.

Net asset value of the split 5p shares after loan conversion and exercise of warrants fell 2.9 per cent to 99.26p. That compared with a rise of about 30 per cent in the 100 share index. But small companies in general rose little. Throgmorton's foray into financial services companies after the crash, notably International City Holdings, added problems of its own.

To compensate, earnings per share are up 11.5 per cent to 3.19p and the dividend up 20 per cent to 3.18p net, thanks to a virtually full payout. But earnings growth depended on the contribution from Framlington, taken mainly as loan interest.

That gives a dividend yield of 5 per cent at 84p with the shares selling at a discount of 16 per cent to the probable

course for year-end pre-tax profits of £1.2 million (£8.3 million), and at 247p therefore offers a prospective p/e of 3.9.

If second half hopes are not fulfilled, then perhaps the year end result will be no more than £6.1 million, at which level the prospective p/e is 8.2. There is no need to rush.

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To compensate, earnings per share are up 11.5 per cent to 3.19p and the dividend up 20 per cent to 3.18p net, thanks to a virtually full payout. But earnings growth depended on the contribution from Framlington, taken mainly as loan interest.

That gives a dividend yield of 5 per cent at 84p with the shares selling at a discount of 16 per cent to the probable

course for year-end pre-tax profits of £1.2 million (£8.3 million), and at 247p therefore offers a prospective p/e of 3.9.

If second half hopes are not fulfilled, then perhaps the year end result will be no more than £6.1 million, at which level the prospective p/e is 8.2. There is no need to rush.

The results reflect the sale of four developments, and as the group, whose managing director is Mr Nigel Dunnett, warns the outcome for the year will depend on whether certain sales now under negotiation are finalized.

Hochef, the West German construction company, holds a 27 per cent stake and through the association the Germans will be given opportunities to handle infrastructure projects in Britain.

The full interim period and the question mark over whether negotiations will be finalized in the second half sees the interim dividend held at 4p a share, payable April 6.

If the second half does turn up trumps, Rush could be on

target.

After two years of virulent takeover disputes, resignations and management changes, it is hard to think of Throgmorton Trust as an investment trust. Yet the traditional concentration on small company portfolio investment – rather than the third of assets tied up in the unquoted Framlington investment group and R Green Properties – accounts for

most of the marked asset under-performance in the year to end November.

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If second half hopes are not fulfilled, then perhaps the year end result will

Beazer loses £29m after Australian firm collapses

By Michael Tate, Deputy City Editor

Beaizer, the West Country-based housebuilding and construction group, has lost £29 million on an Australian investment.

The collapse of Girvan Corp, the Australian construction group where receivers were appointed yesterday, will mean a £29 million write-off in the Beazer interim results, due in March. It will be treated as an extraordinary charge.

Beazer has a 14.5 per cent stake in Girvan, a Sydney-based developer and contractor which is the latest in a string of Australian companies to run into financial problems because of heavy debts, high interest rates and a slowdown in the economy.

Girvan, which reported profits of just Aus\$4 million (£1.83 million) last year, against Aus\$36 million previously, joined the Australian market through a reverse takeover engineered by Mr Paul Petersen, a Sydney property developer, in September 1987, only weeks before the global stock market crash.

Three months later, with its shares languishing at Aus\$0.9 cents against a pre-crash Aus\$1.25, Beazer moved in to take a 17.5 per cent stake, which has been subsequently diluted. But when Girvan's board asked the Australian

Stock Exchange to suspend trading in its shares yesterday, they were changing hands at just Aus\$3.5 cents.

It was only the second time Beazer had backed a man it admired, a spokesman said.

"The other one was Mr Roger Shute, at BM Group, which has been a big success." The group, where Mr Brian Beazer is chairman and chief executive, said its mainstream Australian interests continued to thrive.

News of the provision clipped 7p off the Beazer price at 157p. The shares have been out of favour since the group launched its \$1.7 billion bid for Koppers two years ago. However they have come up from 125p recently on reported buying from the US.

The cost of buying Koppers has given rise to concern among some analysts over Beazer's level of debt, which was £1.3 billion at the end of last June, equivalent to 103 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Profit forecasts for Beazer, which reported pretax profits of £142.5 million for the full year ended June 30, range from £100 million to £125 million for this year.

The company said it would take the £29 million charge as a "full provision for its investment" in Girvan.



Brian Beazer: his company backed a man it admired

Tompkins profits warning

By Colin Campbell

Rush & Tompkins, property developer and contractor, has issued a warning that the profits outlook in its year to end-March depends on negotiations over certain joint venture developments now nearing completion.

For the six months to September 30, Mr Nigel Dunnett, managing director, reported pre-tax profits of £3.56 million against £3.32 million. Turnover was £138.5 million (£110.2 million) and the interim results are 4p.

Mr Dunnett said the investment property climate was not rosy because of uncertainty over interest rates, and that if current talks were not concluded before the year end, second half results could be "lousy."

He added that despite the present climate the group would not be rushed into selling assets at a discount.

The first half results reflect the sale of four developments.

There was strong growth in projects underway in Scotland and the north of England, and further progress was made in the Bahamas, but market conditions in the United States remain difficult.

The group is investigating opportunities in Europe and has won work for a major office park development in Hamburg. Also, planning permission for an office block in Lisbon has recently been granted.

Hochfied of West Germany holds an effective 27 per cent stake in Tompkins, and the German group is to undertake infrastructure projects in the UK. Singapore Land holds a further 15 per cent stake in Tompkins. The shares rose 2p to 247p. *Tempas*, page 24

Next's final large disposal as Germans buy Biba for £47m

By Gillian Bowditch

Next, the high street fashion group, has sold Biba, its German retail chain, to a group of European investors for £47.6 million.

It is the last major disposal Next intends to make under the strategy of returning to its core British fashion retailing now nearing completion.

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ladies fashion shops, has £3.1 million of assets. In the year to January 1989, Biba made £7.9 million profits.

Mr Jones said Biba had been up for sale for three months but that the final negotiations were completed within a fortnight.

Next acquired Biba when it bought Combined English

Stores for £325 million after outbidding Mr Gerald Ratner, the jeweller, in 1987. CES had purchased the chain three years earlier.

Next intended Biba to be the launch pad for its expansion into Europe.

But after the company gave

warning in December 1988,

that profits would fall significantly — and Mr George Davies, then chief executive, was ousted in a boardroom coup — the group decided to sell off non-core businesses.

Mr Jones said yesterday that Next Interiors was performing well and would stay within the group — but with more of the sales being made through Next Directory, the mail order business. The latest Directory has been out for two weeks and Mr Jones said the response so far had been "very positive."

Next shares rose 1p to 91p.

David Jones: price delight

Fraud blow for Microgen

By Jeremy Andrews

An £839,000 fraud added insult to the injury of 28 per cent worse pre-tax profits — at £7.2 million — for Microgen in the year ending October.

The computer services company said it appeared to have been "subject to a deliberate and systematic fraud."

The large provision was made as an extraordinary item in the results, after an investigation by the auditors. The circumstances are being investigated by police.

Mr Douglas Lee, a director, said the fraud problem is over because the source of the problem has been stopped. The company hopes some of the money will be recovered. Mr Patrick Barbour, chair-

man, said the main cause of the profits collapse was that the group had outgrown its management structure.

"We should have anticipated much earlier that we needed additional and different management skills to run the enlarged business effectively."

Microgen was hit by £1.5 million worth of re-organisation costs in the period.

Imagen, its laser printing business, made a substantial loss of £400,000, and is due to be sold in the next few weeks.

Mr Barbour said the 14 per cent increase in group turnover to £45.07 million demonstrated the fundamental strength of Microgen, helped

by a high proportion of trade being repeat business. A final dividend of 4.5p brings the total to 6.7p, compared with 6.5p last year. However, earnings per share fell from 17p to 11.1p.

Microgen shares fell 4p to 121p on the results.

Mr Jerry Crowley, analyst at Laurence Prust, Microgen's own broker, said: "What with one thing and another, the company is undoubtedly feeling punch-drunk."

He is, nevertheless, keeping his forecast for profits this year at £9 million.

This implies earnings per share of 14.75p and means the stock could yield 7.2 per cent at the current price.

Odourless orders

A tiny North Yorkshire company set up by four fathers a year ago claims to have a product that many a City slicker could well use — socks which never smell. The socks are the brainchild of David Leadley, managing director of Mohair Product Producers, which is based in the village of Wykeham, near Scarborough in Yorkshire, within the grounds of the estate of Lord Downe (a one-time non-marie broker at Lloyds). Made from mohair, from angora goats, the socks apparently absorb moisture, allow air to circulate around the feet and do not make like wool and nylon.

Established by the four men, in conjunction with two mill owners, the company has not yet finished its first year's accounts, but turnover is expected to be about £50,000 — they made more than 10,000 pairs of socks last year at £4.50 a pair. Caroline Nash, a director at MPP, said: "We just wanted to diversify away from farming and produce something new and different.

The socks, which we are calling Wellie Socks, work because of the special properties of mohair. I'm just about to wash a pair that my husband has owned up to

wearing for a week — and there is absolutely no smell."

The company, which sells the socks from a converted barn, is now being inundated with orders. Consequently, it is about to undertake a large investment programme designed to increase its production.

Carol Leonard

Amoco in sales talks with Elf

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Amoco has started for the sale of its British downstream stations, including 250 petrol stations, to Elf Aquitaine of France.

No value has yet been placed on the deal, but it would be substantial, given that it would include Amoco's 70 per cent stake in a Milford Haven refinery in South Wales where Murco is its partner. Five product terminals and a pipeline would also form part of the deal.

It would suit the strategies of both companies to clinch the deal. Chicago-based Amoco has for some time been pursuing a policy of divestment of downstream activities in all its overseas operations and the British involvement has been the last to survive. Its sale has long been expected.

The 250 petrol stations account for a market share of about 2 per cent, which Amoco sees as too small in a sector dominated by a few big players. Amoco has decided to stay in the downstream business in the United States.

Elf would, however, finish up with 700 petrol outlets and a market share of at least 14 per cent.

Moreover, Elf is keen to expand its activities in refining and petrol sales and is believed to be looking at acquisition prospects elsewhere. It also has substantial North Sea interests, its four main activities being oil and gas production, refining and marketing, chemicals and health and hygiene products.

If it has a 25 per cent stake in Enterprise Oil of Britain, but has countered speculation that it might bid for the rest by saying that the holding is simply a "financial" one.

Within the British operation of Amoco — a leading gas producer and rated number four in North Sea exploration and production — hydrocarbon production will remain its biggest business, with further expansion being planned.

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COMMENT

Professor Smith does it the Weinstock way

Professor Roland Smith may not be entirely flattered by the comparison, but in a slow but steady string of deals, he appears to be doing for British Aerospace what Lord Weinstock has done for GEC. The market perception of GEC has been transformed by a series of alliances, some, it must be said, forged under pressure from disgruntled City institutions. Nevertheless, joint ventures with German, North American and French companies have placed the British group much more firmly on to an international plane and transformed its prospects.

BAE has other hopes in Europe. Professor Smith is an unashamed admirer of Edzard Reuter, who heads West Germany's Daimler-Benz. BAE's partner in a number of joint ventures. Indeed BAE shares were on the move yesterday, fired by thoughts that Daimler might soon cement those relationships with a cross-shareholding, purchased in German style at the £8.50-per-share asset value rather than the 54.2p market price.

BAE's courtship with Daimler will take some time to reach fruition. The relationship is complicated by Rover's collaboration with Honda. But in the long run, the two would make a powerful combination.

BAE has already moved a long way from the days when its lifeblood flowed from Whitehall in the shape of MoD contracts. Defence already accounts for less than half of sales. Motors and property have appeared in the portfolio and civil aircraft have assumed much greater significance. But BAE's chairman has his way there is much more reshaping to come.

Boardroom gloom deepens

The squeeze on high street sales has fed through to business confidence with a vengeance. The CBI's pre-Budget quarterly survey reveals the sharpest drop in confidence among manufacturers since 1980 and the worst expectations about future investment — another confidence measure — since 1982. The CBI has not held back on these comparisons with the great early eighties slump. It wants to impress on a new Chancellor that the nasty medicine has had the desired effect and that Mr Major ought to switch his prescription to a gentle reviving tonic.

The good news to back this claim is that exports are much rosier — in contrast to the home market. The bad news, which will ring more bells at the Treasury, is that more firms expect unit costs to rise over the next four months than at any time since early 1982. Large firms do not seem so worried about this as smaller companies, which accept rather than set pay rises, but this does not appear to accord with the CBI call for Government to leave pay to professionals.

The danger with the squeeze, as with Nigel Lawson's loosening of the reins after the 1987 market crash, is that it will last too long, just to make absolutely sure. If Mr Major really intends to squeeze pressure out of the economy through credit and fiscal policy, he has a long way to go and the business will face more pain. He must, however, be tempted to do so. Getting the inflation figure right down as early as possible is crucial to the Government's electoral strategy. Action on domestic demand does not seem sufficient to achieve this quickly.

In the run-up to the Budget, it is no surprise that industry is piling on the agony. The CBI wants further supposed supply side aids, such as investment incentives through the tax system. But Mr Major will not be eager to make a U-turn on one his predecessor's best achievements — rationalisation of the tax system.

Thus far, confidence has suffered more than sales and output — the opposite of that earlier recession. Should industry's mental gloom prove more than seasonal, then the outlook for profits of domestically oriented companies, downgraded in the City in the autumn, will have to be reassessed again and share prices could share the pains of the economy.

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Asian Pacific	152.29 - 0.25 1.15
Assets Fund	193.60 - 0.25 1.15
Converg/Energy	116.11 - 0.25 1.15
Euro Cap	178.21 - 0.25 1.15
General	181.26 - 0.25 1.25
UK Govt Inc	120.14 - 0.25 1.25
Do Acc	181.11 - 0.25 1.25
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Acquisitions avert interim fall at Goodhead Group

By Jeremy Andrews

A £450,000 contribution from acquisitions at Goodhead Group, averted a fall in first-half profits after a decline in local newspaper advertising and squeezed margins at the company's design business.

Pre-tax profits edged up 2 per cent to £2.75 million in the six months to November on turnover up a quarter at £38 million.

Fully-diluted earnings per share slipped 2 per cent to 10.2p, although the interim dividend is to be maintained at 1.75p.

Mr Colin Rosser, the chairman of Goodhead, said he thought it was a good performance in the circumstances. He added: "Over the last five

years, earnings per share have increased by an average annual rate of 30 per cent. You can't have a completely straight line."

Goodhead reported that the Canadian local newspapers, bought for Can\$13.8 million (£6.9 million) in May, and Essex Products, which specializes in newspaper "reader-offer" products and was acquired for up to £2.5 million in August, are performing well ahead of expectations.

The underlying downturn in profits from its existing businesses was no more than £200,000, as the new heatset press installed at Portbury in Bristol had incurred exceptional start-up costs of

£150,000. The group is the eleventh largest publisher of free local newspapers in Britain, but profits from this business were down by between 20 and 30 per cent because of cutbacks in advertising by retailers and estate agents.

However, situations vacant and car advertising were holding up well in the Home Counties.

Profits were also lower in the design operation. The rise of a third in the number of clients was not sufficient to offset the fall in margins from 25 per cent to between 10 and 12 per cent.

The contribution from contract printing, which normally accounts for half of Goodhead's profits, was maintained. The company is one of those chosen to print the first six issues of the *Sunday Independent*.

Profits in its paper division, which buys newsprint for its own use and for other printers, rose as a result of aggressive selling.

The company expects profits for the full year to be 50 per cent up on last time.

Without commenting on the full-year outlook for the group as a whole, Mr Rosser said: "The steps we have taken should ensure that all our businesses will be stronger and more efficient and ready for any upturn in the economy."

Ratings slip for two Australian banks

From David Tweed, Sydney
Two of Australia's biggest banks, the National Australia and Westpac Banking Corp have defended the quality of their loan books after United States rating agency Moody's Investors Service Inc downgraded their long term credit ratings.

Moody's said the downgrading, which will affect US\$3.2 billion (£1.9 billion) in long term debt, reflected con-

cerns about the domestic loan portfolios in the face of a slowing Australian economy.

The ratings agency also said the National Australia's recent Aus\$2 billion (£908.8 million) purchase of Yorkshire Bank was a factor in the downgrading.

This was because the purchase price included a large amount for goodwill, thereby reducing the National Australia's adjusted net worth.

National Australia also

owns the Clydesdale Bank in Scotland, and Northern Bank in Northern Ireland.

Westpac's long term deposits were downgraded to Aa3 from Aa2, its subordinated debt to A1 from Aa3 and the rating of non-cumulative preference stock to a2 from a1.

National Australia senior debt was downgraded to Aa3 from AA2, its subordinated debt to A1 from AA2 and its long term deposits to Aa3 from Aa2. Mr Stuart Fowler,

managing director of Westpac, said his bank's creditworthiness remained "sound" in spite of the Moody's downgrading, which he attributed to Australia's "deteriorating credit position."

Mr Terry Budge, the chief manager of strategic investments with the National Australia Bank, said the bank was "quite happy" with the quality of its loan book in spite of the credit agency's downgrading.

Dutch buy for NatWest



Commitment to Europe: Lord Alexander made his first appearance as chairman in Brussels first bought 25 per cent in 1973.

The acquisition, for an undisclosed amount, highlights the bank's commitment to continental Europe.

This was shown earlier this month when Lord Alexander of Weedon, the bank's new chairman, chose Brussels for his first public appearance after a meeting with Sir Leon Brittan, the EC competition commissioner.

NatWest already has a controlling stake in Banco de Santander in Spain which has 170 branches.

NatWest confirmed it is in advanced talks to buy a 40 per cent holding in Van Lanschot from Rabobank Nederland, the Dutch agricultural bank. This would take its stake to 80 per cent.

Rabobank wants to sell its shares because Lanschot does not fit in with its core rural base. But the deal will need almost unanimous approval of

CLF slides on return to trading

By Our City Staff

Trading in the shares of CLF Yeoman, the Irish equipment and vehicle lessor, resumed yesterday after the company announced that the tax loophole covering its existing Luxembourg borrowings will last another four years.

CLF said the Luxembourg authorities had confirmed that the tax treatment applying to its existing financing — under which interest payments are made in the form of dividends, which are not taxed once in the hands of the lenders — will continue until December 1994.

The company, which analysts believe relies for up to half its finance on such arrangements, said the group's profits from its existing Luxembourg transactions had "been placed on a very secure basis."

Nevertheless, CLF Yeoman shares fell 10p on the news, compared with 135p at the time of their suspension.

Dudley ahead

Dudley Jenkins, the mailing list group, improved pre-tax profits by a third to £321,000 in the six months to end October on sales of £3.81 million, against £2.67 million in the same period last year. The interim dividend rises 20 per cent to 1.2p, on earnings per share of 4.31p, up from last time's 3.19p.

ALPHA STOCKS

	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	
ADT	463	653	785	808	
AEG Nat	1,202	620	2,400	6,535	
AIJ-Lyon	128	Courtaulds	772	Lyndes	337
Amstrad	248	Dalerty	465	Lyon	3,198
ASDA	6,177	Dixons	138	Lucas	268
AB Foods	193	ECC	1,448	MAS	1,703
Argy	2,205	Enterprise	1,251	Metall Cr	1,151
B&G	1,202	Europa	6,249	MSB	1,628
BET	1,159	Fisons	1,514	Midland	1,419
BTR	2,654	Flame	171	Smith WH	1,542
BAT	3,484	Gan Acc	561	Smith Ind	237
Barclays	1,224	GEC	3,653	STC	2,118
Bass	117	Glico	2,240	Star Chart	485
Bearl	2,901	Globe Inv	185	Starbuck	1,463
Bensis Ind	85	Globe Inv	209	P&O	1,420
BICC	131	Grenada	1,577	P&P	185
Blue Arrow	874	Grand Met	2,502	Pilkington	2,131
Blue Circle	1,019	GUS "A"	175	T Group	1,000
BDC	602	Hart	2,000	Tarmac	1,917
Boco	2,023	Hawthorn	915	Tate & Lyle	1,496
BPP	2,455	Hess	509	Taylor Wood	746
Br Aero	952	Hillman	154	Tesco	9,193
Br Airways	1,532	Hansen	4,013	Thorn EMI	859
Br Comms	1,438	H&C	185	Thomson	411
Br Gas	3,224	Hawker	71	Thf	1,897
Br Land	2,258	Hawthorn	590	Thomson	7,846
Br Petrol	7,489	Hemis	365	Timex	2,254
Br Steel	4,043	ICI	886	Tomco	1,137
Br Telecom	6,583	Inchcape	607	Unilever	1,054
Bruni	380	Jaguar	148	RTZ	3,753
Burns	1,333	Jascha	51	United Bisc	1,872
Buron	1,333	Jascha	2,386	Univox	555
C&W	1,231	Laddona	2,219	Vodafone	6,025
Cadbury	2,056	Land Sec	558	Williams	646
Coats	725	Laporte	16	Wills Fab	224

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Calls	Puts	Calls	Puts
	Series Apr 57 Oct 49 Feb 40	Series Feb May 12 Jul 14 Oct 15		
Alld Lyon	460 57 67 82 7 16 20	550 62 63 103 3 12 17	600 110 127 140 1 5 6	730 124 135 145 4 10 12
(*62)	508 39 43 52 23 32 38	550 62 63 103 3 12 17	650 124 135 145 4 10 12	780 135 145 155 5 15 16
ASDA	120 9 14 11 13 16 20	110 13 17 21 7 16 20	650 124 135 145 4 10 12	780 135 145 155 5 15 16
(*112)	130 54 65 75 20 21 25	130 54 65 75 20 21 25	650 124 135 145 4 10 12	780 135 145 155 5 15 16
Bass	1,050 59 65 75 20 21 25	1,050 59 65 75 20 21 25	650 124 135 145 4 10 12	780 135 145 155 5 15 16
(*1032)	1,050 59 65 75 20 21 25	1,050 59 65 75 20 21 25	650 124 135 145 4 10 12	780 135 145 155 5 15 16
Boco	2,023 51 58 65 20 21 25	2,023 51 58 65 20 21 25	650 124 135 145 4 10 12	780 135 145 155 5 15 16
(*269)	2,023 51 58 65 20 21 25	2,023 51 58 65 20 21 25	650 124 135 145 4 10 12	780 135 145 155 5 15 16
BRI Air	200 15185 22 23 24 25 26 27	200 15185 22 23 24 25 26 27	650 124 135 145 4 10 12	780 135 145 155 5 15 16
(*203)	240 2 16 22 23 24 25 26	240 2 16 22 23 24 25 26	650 124 135 145 4 10 12	780 135 145 155 5 15 16
BRI Coms	80 11 13 15 18 20 22	80 11 13 15 18 20 22	650 124 135 145 4 10 12	780 135 145 155 5 15 16
(*76)	100 30 35 38 40 42 45	100 30 35 38 40 42 45	650 124 135 145 4 10 12	780 135 145 155 5 15 16
BP	300 40 48 54 59 65 74	300 40 48 54 59 65 74	650 124 135 145 4 10 12	780 135 145 155 5 15 16
(*334)	330 17 22 25 28 30 33	330 17 22 25 28 30 33	650 124 135 145 4 10 12	780 135 145 155 5 15 16
Bell Steel	300 61 65 71 75 81 87	300 61 65 71 75 81 87	650 124 135 145 4 10 12	780 135 145 155 5 15 16
(*130)	350 61 65 71 75 81 87	350 61 65 71 75 81 87	650 124 135 145 4 10 12	780 135 145 155 5 15 16
C&G	105 107 121 135 145 155 165	105 107 121 135 145 155 165	650 124 135 145 4 10 12	780 135 145 155 5 15 16
(*45)	145 3 15 16 17 18 19	145 3 15 16 17 18 19	650 124 135 145 4 10 12	780 135 145 155 5 15 16
Cost Union	420 82 84 86 88 90 92	420 82 84 86 88 90 92	650 124 135 145 4 10 12	

MEDIA & MARKETING

Commercially speaking

Even the best-known actors will now do the highly profitable advertising voice-over

Just over a year ago, a little-known actor with the improbable name of Stephan de Montaignac (stage name, Stephen Chase), spied a gap in the market. Like him, many of his friends were keen to supplement their income by doing voice-overs, but unsure about how to find work. On a hunch he set up Roobarb, an agency specializing in voice-overs, and now does a roaring trade with such names as Rula Lenska, Gareth Hunt, Kate O'Meara, Michael Aspel, Peter Jeffrey and Julie Dawn Cole on his books.

Most actors use voice-over agencies in addition to their existing agencies. "Voice-overs are booked at short notice, often for the next day," explained de Montaignac. "It's fast-moving, so you need someone working on it full-time."

A crop of similar companies has sprung up — Voices, Castaway, Evans O'Brien and the women-only outfit, Speakeasy, to name a few — and business is booming. "Voice-overs have come out of the closet," says Saatchi & Saatchi's casting director, Louise Fennimore. "The better-known actors and actresses used to be snooty about commercials, but now the Tom Contis, Michael Gambons and Judi Denches are all interested."

Agencies choose recognizable voices not for a particular part but to portray a type — Penelope Keith



Star names: Judi Dench and Michael Hordern, both likely to be heard any evening during the commercial breaks

for the bossy schoolmistress, Simon Cadell for a hapless, confused character.

There has always been a handful of serious actors who saw the sense in earning money through advertising — Orson Welles had a long-running contract with Carlsberg, and Peter Sellers recorded ads for FG Tips and Kennomeat dog food. Others such as Ian Holm, John Hurt and Geoffrey Palmer have never balked at putting their voices to commercial use. But they were always exceptions to the rule.

Now, if you spend an evening in front of the television, you may hear Conti (British Airways), Gambon

(Allied Dunbar) and Dench (Sheba cat food), joined by Joss Ackland, Jane Asher, Sir Michael Hordern, Tim Pigott-Smith, Peter Egan, and the ubiquitous Stephen Fry. Lennie Henry, Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones should also pop up at least once or twice. Many of the same performers also make radio ads.

De Montaignac attributes the growing popularity of voice-overs to the diminishing amount of television acting work available. "Four or five years ago there used to be plenty of television drama. Now television relies so heavily on American and Australian imports, repeats and game shows, that actors

have had to broaden their horizons."

But it is also bound up with improved standards of UK advertising in the 1980s. Mandy Wheeler, a radio commercials producer, says: "Ad agencies have thankfully moved away from the hard-sell, very authoritative, 'dark brown' voice-over of the Seventies, which always seemed to be done by Patrick Allen [who had his own agency, now closed, to market himself]. They have also stopped using the patronizing soft-sell, with the singing song voice and friendly inflections."

Wheeler believes the quality of scripts in radio advertising in

particular has improved as more advertisers use it as an economic alternative to television. In a recession-hit market, revenue for the medium grew by 25 per cent to £104 million in the first nine months of 1989, with forecasts of up to £140 million for the full year.

Peter Jeffrey, star of BBC1's drama series *Cheifworth* last summer and currently the voice in television and radio commercials for KP Nuts, Citroen and Boots, says: "These days, voice-overs are like an extension of radio drama. But it's a challenge of a different sort. You might be playing a pimple or a flat tyre, which is much harder than it sounds."

"We have boundless energy."

The over-fifties also have a lot of cash. And there are plenty of them: 38 per cent of the British population is aged more than 50, and by the year 2000 the figure will be more than 40 per cent. They have 70 per cent of the country's savings, and 82 per cent of their income is disposable — £108 billion a year. It is the first generation to benefit through inheritance from property price inflation.

So perhaps the surprising thing is not that Emap should be targeting them now, but that it hasn't happened before. "Research on the dummy shows this age group was desperate for a magazine of its own," James says. "I think they feel very isolated."

Choice has been around for 17 years, and owned by Emap for six. Until the relaunch it concentrated on personal financial planning for the over-sixties, selling 10,000 copies on newsstands and the rest of its 76,000 monthly circulation through subscription — many of them to companies for distribution to employees approaching retirement.

Lisa O'Kelly

The old grey magazine test

Choice relaunches in the hope that a rich and glossy new life begins at 50

remain alone in the market is another question: there is speculation that a number of the established American titles for the age group, like *Lear's*, *Mrs* and *Madeline*, may be looking to enter the British scene. And there have long been rumours that IPC is planning a women's magazine for the age group.

James, who was previously at *Bella* and *Woman*, says the editorial will focus on new opportunities for a new age, a time when, for many people, pressures to conform and perform ease off.

The first issue of the revamped *Choice* (the January number, priced £1.50) had features on cross-country skiing, and a group of women aged more than 60 who drove to Monte Carlo to raise money for charity. Aylott says she is getting interest from advertisers of holidays, housing, cars, insurance, leisure and pharmaceuticals.

The new *Choice* — now full colour throughout — guarantees a 100,000 circulation by April. Emap will spend £5 million over two years to support the launch, with an above-the-line campaign to break in May through Harari Page, a new agency, and a hefty push through direct marketing.

Aylott hopes the continued presence of consumer advice and personal finance columns will keep the magazine interesting to companies, but that newsstand and personal subscription will make up the bulk of sales.

Editional will be "guided, not dictated" by *Notre Temps*, James says. Topics like terminal illness and bereavement won't be ignored, "but they will be handled in a sensitive way, depending on feedback from readers". On the whole, editorial will be upbeat.

For Emap, there are hopes that this is just the beginning. "Once *Choice* is going well," Aylott says, "I envisage us growing and growing and having more publications in the group."

Geraldine Bedell

Who will win Mondadori?

The struggle for control of Italy's biggest publishers has had bitter consequences

The struggle between two top financiers for control of Mondadori, Italy's largest publishing group, has led to pressure for an anti-trust law. This aims to restrict the growing concentration of the country's media by putting a limit on overlapping television and newspaper interests.

Demands for the introduction of the law, first raised more than two years ago, were behind Monday's strike by more than 10,000 journalists. Their immediate anger was aimed at Silvio Berlusconi, the enigmatic Milanese television magnate, who, on Thursday, beat off competition from Carlo de Benedetti, the chairman of Olivetti, to take the presidency (and

thus effective control) of Mondadori, Italy's largest publishing group.

With it came control of L'Espresso group, publisher of what are probably Italy's two most influential print media, *Repubblica*, the daily newspaper which vies with *Corriere della Sera* for the title of Italy's biggest selling newspaper, and *Panorama*, the weekly news magazine which sells 700,000 copies a week.

Repubblica and Berlusconi are two powerful symbols in Italian political culture. The newspaper was founded in 1976 by Prince Carlo Caracciolo and Eugenio Scalfari, its respected, leftist editor, in partnership with the then family-owned Mondadori. It established a reputation for hard-hitting journalism, attacking, in particular, the ruling establishment of Giulio Andreotti, the present Italian prime minister and Bettino Craxi, the Socialist Party leader.

Berlusconi is a skilful and

opportunistic former night club singer who has built up Italy's only national commercial television network. To some, he is an iconoclast who broke the power of the state broadcasters; to others, he is a purveyor of down-market game shows and imported films.

Last year, through judicious stake building, De Benedetti seemed in control of Monda-

dori. Caracciolo and Scalfari were content to sell their share of *L'Espresso* to him, thus giving Mondadori overall control. But a death in the family which controlled Mondadori allowed Berlusconi to take executive control, trumping De Benedetti who only had a majority of the shares, most of them non-voting.

With Berlusconi at the helm of *Repubblica*, he will have about 16.5 per cent of Italy's newspaper market to add to the 45 per cent of the national television audience he has

through his three main chan-

nels. Mondadori will also bring an additional 17 per cent of the national magazine market to his thriving periodicals business, not to mention its core book publishing division.

Scalfari has said he will refuse to recognize Berlusconi as his publisher. A compromise has been suggested: Berlusconi could take the main publishing group, leaving De Benedetti control of the group's newspaper and magazine titles. If that does not work out, Scalfari threatens that, as he did 14 years ago, he will start up a new paper. The outcome of the corporate battle will be watched with interest.

Andrew Lycett

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Continued from page 29

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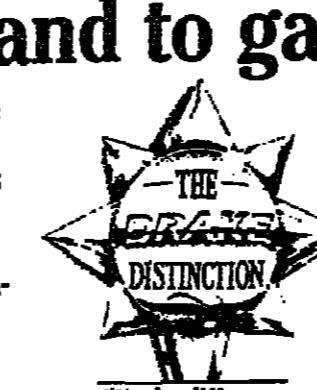
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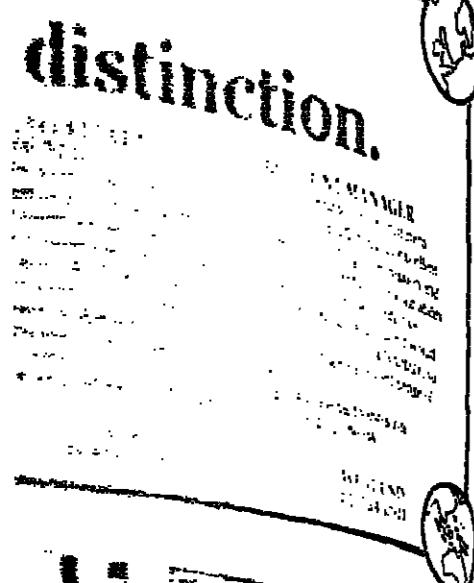
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Strand Palace Hotel

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Followers promotion of
present R. H. in flying
PA to her MD.
Investment Company
look for a replacement.
Good 20/30 wpm
typewriting and KNWP. Well
presented, competent,
able to smooth his path
and handle his
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Ideally 20's with good
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An exciting co with an
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Good 20/30 wpm
typewriting and KNWP. Well
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Ideally 20's with good
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A happy role
with far to go!

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Just another day Bridge
you will find a super challenge
- a fun job. Your calm
and organised approach will
respond to occasional hassle
atmosphere with two top
as executives is creative, even
electric. Masses of clients to
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Good SH/Typing a must,
KNWP, fair organising,
telephone contacts, chancery
Fleet St or Soho for
career development.
Positively recommended!



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you will find a super challenge
- a fun job. Your calm
and organised approach will
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atmosphere with two top
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answer, and a top MD.
Good SH/Typing a must,
KNWP, fair organising,
telephone contacts, chancery
Fleet St or Soho for
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Positively recommended!

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Small investment executive team require capable PA/secretary for busy and active office environment. Good organisational skills are required as well as excellent shorthand and wpm skills to help run this friendly team in pleasant surroundings.

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The successful applicant must be able to work under pressure in a busy environment and relate to senior personnel as and when required. The position demands an individual who is able to work on their own initiative and has good organisational abilities add to sound secretarial skills (shorthand and word processing).

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Written applications with CV should be addressed to:

Administration Manager
Varig Brazilian Airlines
16/17 Hanover Street, London W1R 0HG

Telephone 01-437 6032
Fax: 01-588 3535

Telex 800777 VARIG G

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2nd Friday

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4th Friday

5th Friday

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to the Communications IndustryINTERNATIONAL BANKING
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You'll be working for the Chairman/Chief Executive who, as a delegator, needs a resourceful, positive person to organise & shield him. If you will be in contact with many important clients, it is essential that people at the highest level, smart presentation & an approachable manner are vital. This is a position with variety + responsibility in a dynamic expanding company. Local travel involved. Good basic typing, shorthand useful. X-training on Deck Top Publishing. Age 24-33.

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Call Lynne on
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COMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT
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Administrator Wine

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SECRETARY -
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BUCKINGHAM: 2

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Where quality really counts

So-called 'prestige' homes can often be no more than examples of hyperbole by estate agents — but there are exceptions

Housebuilders and estate agents do not like to underestimate the appeal of their properties, and one of their favourite words is 'prestige'. But so often is it used to describe any property from a small flat to a large mansion that it becomes devalued.

It does, nevertheless, fit in certain cases, and even when the market is difficult, these 'prestige' properties will invariably sell. The top end of the market has been largely cushioned from the hard realities of high interest rates, as recent sales, such as the £10 million house in Eaton Square, Belgravia, bought by Andrew Lloyd-Webber, show.

That was a house on the books of Knight Frank & Rutley, which uses the overworked word rarely. Including the Eaton Square house, it sold about £1.6 million worth of properties in London during the 12 days of Christmas, one at over £2 million and three more at around £1 million. Chesterfield & Co is another agent reporting similar success, having sold more than £2.5 million of residential properties in the past six weeks.

A number of prestige properties are coming to the market, none more so than the 12 apartments which make up Summit Lodge in Hampstead, set on what the developer, the Shield Group, confidently says is the highest point in London — at least the penthouse apartments will make it so. Occupying an island site of just over one acre, overlooking Whitestone Pond, the building of this block, designed by Levy, Benjamin and Horwitz, has cost £7 million.

The apartments, some with terraces, all with terraces or roof gardens, range in size from nearly 2,000 to 3,000 sq ft, and there is also a swimming pool and extensive security, including underground parking. Prices range from £1.5 million to £3 million, and one has already been sold to a British buyer, although the main demand is expected to come from the international market.

Summit Lodge is only three miles from central London. Bicknell Mansions is in central London, situated between Baker Street and Gloucester Place. Built at the turn of the century, Bicknell Mansions was one of the first purpose-built mansions blocks, epitomizing stylish living until it fell into decline after the Second World War.

It is now being refurbished by its owner, Metropolitan & County,

which, in addition to renovating the common parts of the eight-storey block, is creating 15 penthouses out of the roof space. Each will be different, using materials from all over Europe, two with

their own art galleries. The first to come on to the market include the largest, a four-bedroom apartment on three floors full of interesting angles, curves, columns and vaulted cellings, with a large gallery above the drawing room and its own Italian-style roof garden, the work of the interior designer Sue Thoday. The prices for the penthouses range from £250,000 to £1.5 million

through James Selway Residential and Debenham Tewson Residential.

Two more stylish developments are Royal Court House in Sloane Street, and Lowndes Court, Lowndes Square, both in London SW1. Royal Court House, described as 'one of London's most prestigious developments' by agents De Groot Collis, has 24 apartments within the elegant reconstruction of a terrace of period buildings, combining the style of the original architecture with a totally new interior. Most of the apartments are large, 2,000-3,000 sq ft, with three, four and five bedrooms, although there are two one-bedroom flats. Prices range from £195,000 to £250,000.

Royal Court House is designed and built by Lewis Cubitt, brother of Thomas who was responsible for most of Belgravia's imposing mansions. The rebuilt Court, designed by Blampied & Partners, has a virtual replica of the original facade, and the intention of the developer, SC Properties (UK), is to create 'the most superior apartment building in London'. Prices: £244,000 to £275,000.

A spectacular flat on the ground floor of a house built by Thomas Cubitt for his daughter in Warwick Square, London SW1, is for sale through Russell Simpson and Aylesford. The flat is at £1.3 million. It has three reception rooms, a master bedroom suite, studio room and three further bedrooms, gymnasium and a shared private garden.

through James Selway Residential and Debenham Tewson Residential.

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Redlands Farm, Praitow, West Sussex, was built in the early 1500s by Prince Tomislav, second son of King Alexander of Yugoslavia. The prince spent the next 34 years there, applying farming until his retirement in 1986. The present owners have extended the house, which stands in 41 acres of gardens, orchards and woodland, and has three reception rooms, two bedrooms suites and two further bedrooms. It is for sale at around £600,000 through Browns of Cranleigh, and a letting company has set a guide price of £825,000.

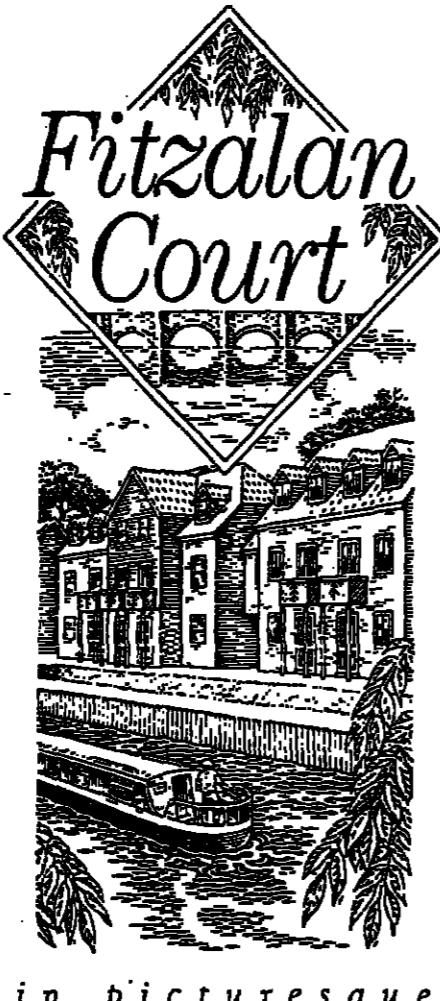
Hill Top Lodge in Swaledale, North Yorkshire, is a period house, formerly set in a park which has been used in the television series *All Creatures Great and Small*. It was completely refurbished in 1986, and has two reception rooms, a study and seven bedrooms. Within the gardens there is a barn and outbuildings, and the original cheese presses remain. This rural property, with grand views over the Dales, could provide an ideal retreat for a businessman or woman, say the agents Savills. Its York office is asking for offers over £190,000.



Lowndes Court: a virtual replica of the original facade for 'the most superior apartment building in London'

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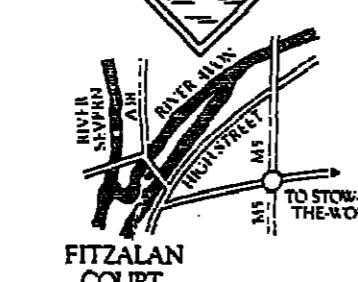
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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Steaming ahead

Plans for a spectacular 600,000 sq ft office development between Holborn Viaduct and Blackfriars on the western fringe of the City of London have been unveiled by Roschaugh Stanhope Developments.

The £360 million scheme, planned in association with British Rail, has been made possible by the closure of Holborn Viaduct station, which ran its last train last Friday, and the consequent demolition of the viaduct running from Blackfriars Station.

Before the office building gets under way, Roschaugh Stanhope is undertaking the major engineering project — costing £130 million — of realigning the Thameslink rail connection, sending it underground at Ludgate Hill where it will provide a new station, to be called St Paul's Thameslink, and then into the old Snow Hill tunnel to King's Cross.

The station is due to open at the end of May, and Roschaugh Stanhope Developments has submitted a detailed application to develop the four-acre railway corridor site, intending to complete it in mid-1991. It involves five separate buildings, with shops and restaurants, and the creation of a new public square as well as walkways between Holborn and Blackfriars.

The new scheme, Ludgate, is the latest joint venture between two of the leading property developers, Roschaugh and Stanhope, the first being the Broadgate development at Liverpool Street, creating 3.5 million sq ft of offices, shops and

A £360 million scheme will transform the site of London's Holborn Viaduct station

restaurants. They are also involved in the £3 billion redevelopment of King's Cross.

There will be deliberate contrasts between the five buildings, which vary in size from 52,000 sq ft (net) to 150,000 sq ft (net), and have been designed by three architects. The main planner will be Renzo Piano Wood Levin Partnership, which is also responsible for one of the buildings, and the other firms will be Skidmore, Owings and Merrill and John Outram Associates.

The latter is perhaps the most interesting, for this will be the first substantial project for the colourful British architect John Outram, whose previous work has included houses, factories and warehouses.

He has designed the building nearest Blackfriars, next to the historic public house The Blackfriar, which is remarkable for two features. It will be clad in multi-coloured tiles and designed so that trains from Blackfriars will go through the building.

Stuart Lipton of Stanhope says

the buildings are a complete contrast in design and shape "to provide variety while complementing the other buildings in the area. We learnt a lesson at

Broadgate, where I believe too much is the same."

He explains that the buildings have been "conceptually designed" for a legal centre. "There will be no trading floors. We always ask the customer what is wanted and this is a traditional area for lawyers, so these offices are predominantly for legal practices."

Martin Chilcott, of Gooch and Wagstaff, appointed with Baker Harris Saunders and Jones Lang Wootton as letting agents, anticipates significant demand for space there. "The dismantling of the viaduct will remove a physical barrier within this favoured western sector of the City of London and will open up hitherto obstructed views of St Paul's," he says. "We are already receiving a number of positive inquiries from potential tenants both within the professional and financial sectors."

With the development inevitably linked with the railway changes, it has been a complex project, requiring an Act of Parliament. Roschaugh Stanhope has been working on it for some three years, and carrying out construction work for 12 months. The group has worked closely with the Museum of London and is funding a £2 million archaeological dig. The dig is already achieving considerable success in finding links in the City's past, including the "lost" River Fleet (of which parts of the banks have been found), Blackfriars Priory, a second Tower of London and the Fleet prison.

● Princes Tower at Rotherhithe, on the south bank of the



Viking Property Group, the development arm of City Site Estates, has let more than 70 per cent of its comprehensive refurbishment of The Lyceum to Liverpool to the Post Office and the National & Provincial Building Society. It has achieved a rent of over £175,000 a year from the Post Office, which will occupy 13,000 sq ft and sublet about 1,850 sq ft. The

building, which will become Liverpool's main city centre post office, is one of the finest Georgian buildings in the area, designed in 1802 as the first circular public library in England. The remaining 6,000 sq ft is available at an annual rent of £55,000 through Clayton Booth & Partners, Bernard Thorpe & Partners and Peter Murdoch & Co.

IN THE MARKET

● The Arbour at Whitebrook Park, near Maidenhead, Berkshire, has been sold to Hitachi Europe for £22 million as its new European headquarters. The development was carried out jointly by Chesterfield Properties and Capital & City Properties, and the Japanese electronics company has acquired the new 93,000 sq ft air-conditioned building and two restored period buildings, The Stable and The Lodge.

● Prudential Portfolio Managers has received planning per-

mission for the redevelopment, on behalf of Prudential Assurance, of the site at Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1, which will provide about 340,000 sq ft of air-conditioned offices, retail and restaurants around a central atrium. The scheme will feature the reinstatement of the Victorian Gates House which until its destruction in the last war was located on the north-west corner of Holborn Viaduct. Work is set to begin in July, and is due for completion in 1992.

By Christopher Warman

Property Correspondent

County NatWest WoodMac, part of the NatWest Investment Bank Group, announces today that it has started making markets in property stocks, and provides a full specialist property service consisting of research, sales and market-making.

Marc Gilbard, recently appointed head of its property team, says that in the past month a research base, meeting and analysing property companies and formulating views on the direct property market, has been established. "On the launch day of our property document, CNWM will also start to make markets in 11 stocks, and this number is likely to increase. In the meantime, all other property stocks may be traded through our sales traders."

A number of companies have recently launched property enterprise trusts, tax shelter schemes for investment in commercial property in enterprise zones. Laser Richmount, a joint venture formed between Johnson Fry and Richard Ellis, aims to raise £48.5 million from both private and corporate investors through its new Laser Richmount Trusts. Each is designed to be attractive to individuals paying higher-rate tax and to companies which pay corporation tax as a way of mitigating their tax liability.

Property Enterprise Managers Ltd, manager of the UK's largest tax shelter scheme, has launched two property enterprise trusts with a combined value of £52 million. Its latest acquisitions are two office towers in the Salford, Manchester, enterprise zone, forming part of Charter Developments' 500,000 sq ft landmark office scheme, Exchange Quays.

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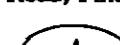
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Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent, meets a young player eager to follow advice to eliminate the negative

Plotting a positive path to crock of gold

Mark Davis will win bigger cheques in the new decade than the \$20 he earned in his first appearance of the year, although he would be the first to agree that there might not be a more important day. For Davis won the money from Lee Trevino, with whom he was invited to practice recently in Palm Springs, California.

"It seemed a little wrong taking the money considering what anyone would be prepared to pay to spend five days working with Lee," Davis said. "My one regret is that I spent it. I should have got Lee to sign the bill and had it framed."

"But I have no intention of losing all that I learn in Palm Springs. Actually to meet Lee Trevino was an experience; to practice with him and play two rounds was an absolute treat. My chipping is not the best part of my game, and I went out there hoping I could learn from Lee in that department. I did, but it was what he said to me within 30 minutes of being on the practice range that surprised me."

"Lee came straight out with the thought that I am too negative. I thought about it and he's right. I'm taking a more positive approach this season. I'm determined to win."

The trip to Palm Springs was organized by Willie Aitchison who has caddied for Trevino for more than 20 years. This season Aitchison will be working for

Davis, who could not wish for a more experienced or dependable partner.

Davis, aged 25, from the Thordom Park Club, near Brentwood, is a former England international. He turned professional in 1986, returned to the PGA European Tour qualifying school in 1988 and began last season seeking only to secure his playing privileges for another year.

He did much more than that. Davis finished third in the Belgian Open and sixth in the Carroll Irish Open. He won £61,362 for 45th place in the Volvo Order of Merit and he has been selected as a player of promise by Nick Faldo.

"There are a few younger players with talent and Mark Davis is one of them," Faldo said. "But having the talent is not the end of it; you have to squeeze every ounce you can out of it. You will only do that by working hard."

Davis has never met Faldo, although he is likely to do so in Florida next week. He is returning to the United States to practice in the sun in Orlando, on the same range where Faldo will be fine tuning his swing under the instruction of David Leadbetter, before playing in the Australian Masters.

"My coach is Denis Pugh, and he works closely with David Leadbetter," Davis said. "In one way I agree with what Nick has to say about the younger brigade. The thing is a lot of professionals out

there do practice hard; they simply do not come through because they do not possess the supreme talent that Nick does."

"I'll admit I used not to be a devotee of the practice range. In fact, I was terrible. I've got more of a taste for it now. I suspect I've changed, because whereas in 1988 I played in only five events, I was able to play a full season last year. I started to get something out of it. When you first come out, practice hard and nothing happens then it is easy to become despondent."

Davis has no intention of that happening this season. He has rebuilt his swing with diligence and the assistance of Pugh to become a more consistent striker. Yet he still has the reputation of being a naturally long hitter.

"I am certain that Mark has a very big future in the game," Pugh said. "The changes we have made take his golf swing from the classic swing of the 1970s (the upright plane, free arm swing and leg drive action) to the efficient swing of the 1990s."

Whether Davis will fulfil his ambition to win a tournament this season remains to be seen. Severiano Ballesteros, with whom Davis was paired in the Lancome Trophy, would appear to believe that he can. Davis shot 68 that day compared to his more partner's 71. "That young man has gold in his fingertips," Ballesteros said.



Master and pupil: Trevino (right) imparts the wisdom of a veteran to Davis in the Palm Springs sunshine

CRICKET: ENGLAND ARE MADE TO STRUGGLE IN DILLEY'S ABSENCE

Indians in close call at the end

Dundin (Reuter) — Hirwan, the No. 11 Indian batsman, survived a leg-before appeal off the last ball of the game and the four-day match against Otago ended in a draw yesterday.

The Indians set a 261-run target in 56 overs, finished on 256 for nine after looking set for a comfortable victory earlier as Vijay Chandrasekhar hit a top score of 71. Then, from 196 for three, six wickets tumbled for 57.

Second Innings

K Rutherford & C Mawhinney

B Warriner not out

R W Mawhinney 66

S N Hawran 67

First Innings

S Bhabha & D Venkatesan

B Hossam & S Naseem

K Burns not out

R W Mawhinney 57

S N Hawran 57

Total (6 wkt dec)

111

Fall of Wickets: 1-9, 2-3, 3-10, 4-44,

5-100, 6-100, 7-100, 8-100, 9-100

10-100, 11-100, 12-100, 13-100

14-100, 15-100, 16-100, 17-100

18-100, 19-100, 20-100, 21-100

22-100, 23-100, 24-100, 25-100

26-100, 27-100, 28-100, 29-100

30-100, 31-100, 32-100, 33-100

34-100, 35-100, 36-100, 37-100

38-100, 39-100, 40-100, 41-100

42-100, 43-100, 44-100, 45-100

46-100, 47-100, 48-100, 49-100

50-100, 51-100, 52-100, 53-100

54-100, 55-100, 56-100, 57-100

58-100, 59-100, 60-100, 61-100

62-100, 63-100, 64-100, 65-100

66-100, 67-100, 68-100, 69-100

70-100, 71-100, 72-100, 73-100

74-100, 75-100, 76-100, 77-100

78-100, 79-100, 80-100, 81-100

82-100, 83-100, 84-100, 85-100

86-100, 87-100, 88-100, 89-100

90-100, 91-100, 92-100, 93-100

94-100, 95-100, 96-100, 97-100

98-100, 99-100, 100-100

Second Innings

W Raman not out

V Chandrasekhar & Dobbs b Johnson

71

A Sharma b Dobbs

72

K Rutherford & C Mawhinney

b Warriner

75

B Warriner not out

R W Mawhinney 57

S N Hawran 57

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18-100, 19-100, 20-100, 21-100

22-100, 23-100, 24-100, 25-100

26-100, 27-100, 28-100, 29-100

30-100, 31-100, 32-100, 33-100

34-100, 35-100, 36-100, 37-100

38-100, 39-100, 40-100, 41-100

42-100, 43-100, 44-100, 45-100

46-100, 47-100, 48-100, 49-100

50-100, 51-100, 52-100, 53-100

54-100, 55-100, 56-100, 57-100

58-100, 59-100, 60-100, 61-100

62-100, 63-100, 64-100, 65-100

66-100, 67-100, 68-100, 69-100

70-100, 71-100, 72-100, 73-100

74-100, 75-100, 76-100, 77-100

78-100, 79-100, 80-100, 81-100

82-100, 83-100, 84-100, 85-100

86-100, 87-100, 88-100, 89-100

90-100, 91-100, 92-100, 93-100

94-100, 95-100, 96-100, 97-100

98-100, 99-100, 100-100

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18-100, 19-100, 20-100, 21-100

22-100, 23-100, 24-100, 25-100

26-100, 27-100, 28-100, 29-100

30-100, 31-100, 32-100, 33-100

34-100, 35-100, 36-100, 37-100

38-100, 39-100, 40-100, 41-100

42-100, 43-100, 44-100, 45-100

46-100, 47-100, 48-100, 49-100

50-100, 51-100, 52-100, 53-100

54-100

negative
gold

AMERICAN FOOTBALL
Tagliabue looks beyond the 49ers

From Robert Kiley
New Orleans

1st Super Bowl XXIV

San Francisco 49ers

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

1989-90 NFL season

1990 NFL season

1991 NFL season

1992 NFL season

1993 NFL season

1994 NFL season

1995 NFL season

1996 NFL season

1997 NFL season

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2093 NFL season

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2095 NFL season

2096 NFL season

2097 NFL season

2098 NFL season

2099 NFL season

20100 NFL season

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Probably not the kind of words that spring readily to mind when describing your favourite pint of bitter.

But to a very special group of Draught Bass drinkers, words like grass and leather or even cooked veg. trip easily off the tongue.

We mean, of course, the flavour testers who make sure that every single

The
Draught Bass
flavour-wheel -
how we make
sure every pint's as
distinctive as the last.

pint we brew has the same nutty, malty, subtle taste.

They use the 'flavour-wheel' illustrated here.

This glossary of sixty different flavour or taste descriptions is the only sure way to keep every pint of Draught Bass we make as distinctive as the original 1777 brew. Naturally, we would never expect you to worry about the subtleties that can keep our experts engrossed for hours.

When they've done their job, you should be able to describe Draught Bass as, quite simply, a great pint. ▲



You can tell it with your eyes closed.

Student games organizers admit mistakes

By Peter Davenport

Organizers of the World Student Games in Sheffield next year yesterday unveiled the results of a detailed audit into their troubled finances. They admitted there had been mistakes in their early planning for the event, but denied emphatically any evidence of misconduct or malpractice.

Norman Adsets, the man drafted to revive the flagging fortunes of Universiade GB Limited, the company which will run the Games, insisted yesterday the new business plan meant that there was every realistic expectation that the event would go ahead on time and within budget.

However, with 18 months to go before 6,000 athletes from 120 nations are due to descend on the city in the biggest

sporting extravaganza this country has staged, the company faces a formidable task. With an overdraft and debts of around £2.5 million, no television agreement signed or main international sponsor secured, it has to raise the bulk of the £27 million that is the revised cost of the event.

The company ordered an internal audit following the reverberations caused by the dismissal of its chief executive before Christmas, the drawing of a £1 million overdraft facility, and then the resignation of its financial director, all of which led to growing concerns about the viability of the undertaking. The audit was carried out by the firm of Pannell Kerr Forster and a new business plan, the fifth produced by Universiade, has

been developed from its results.

The report highlighted "flaws" in the systems of financial control within the company, and the need for tight control on purchasing and strict cash limits on all big areas of expenditure. There has also been a freeze on staff recruitment.

Figures produced yesterday showed that in December 1989 £3.9 million had been spent, of which £700,000 was covered by sponsorship. Expenditure included £850,000 spent on winning the bid, £1 million on marketing, £750,000 on salaries, and £200,000 in interest charges and on general running costs of the company.

Yesterday Adsets, deputy chairman of Universiade and one of three private sector

directors on its board, said there was "no dreadful secret" about where the money had gone. The expenditure was in line with the costs expected to be incurred during the basic planning for the Games.

He admitted, however, that there had been "some mistakes and miscalculations" in the company's early operations. These centred on a failure to capitalize on local commercial sponsorship or to produce big international funding; the assumption, now proved sadly inaccurate, being that either BBC or ITV would act as host broadcaster.

The company also has to bear the unexpected £2 million cost of refurbishing one of the three blocks of council flats that are to form the athletes' village for the Games, which is

not covered by central or local government funding.

The company expects that it will have to act as host broadcaster and has budgeted for the potential costs of transmission. Its marketing director is on a world tour, taking in Japan, America, Australia and the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand, trying to secure agreements with overseas stations to take coverage of the event which will, it is then hoped, draw in the leading international sponsors.

Yesterday Adsets said: "If you are looking from the report for specific examples of misconduct then there is no evidence of that in the audit.

Where there is evidence of some element of our administration and control being less

than we would like, then action has been taken to deal with those points and that issue is now behind us."

The company acknowledges that cash from local and regional sponsors, on top of the £500,000 already raised from business in the area, will be crucial to its short-term cash needs. Yesterday it announced an injection of £250,000, with the possibility of more to follow, from the company which is developing the giant Meadowhall shopping complex, the largest in Europe, sited in the Lower Don Valley near to some of the new facilities being constructed for the Games.

The cost of the facilities, which will be among the most modern in the UK, has risen to £140 million and is being experienced across the city.

"To those who may now be questioning the whole idea and scale of the investment and the risks involved, I would say it is understandable but that they should not forget the benefits that will follow," he said.

A German caught in a Soviet sandwich

From John Hennessy
Leningrad

It was first blood, and third to the Soviet Union in the European figure skating championships here yesterday. The first element in the competition, the women's compulsory figures, was won by Natalya Lebedeva, with her compatriot, Nadezhda Skrabshevskaya, in third place.

The ominous middle of the Soviet sandwich is provided by Patricia Necke, of West Germany. The European rankings, based on last year's championships, at the NEC Birmingham, foresaw Lebedeva and Necke in the first two places, giving them the winner then. Claudia Leistner, is now a professional.

Thereafter, anything might happen, since the next three in the European rankings, among them the hapless Joanne Longway, are absent from Leningrad, for a variety of reasons.

Emma Murdoch, who represented Conway as the head of female affairs at home, was thirteenth in the figures, a laudable achievement in her first daunting appearance at this level.

Not that she is easily daunted. Indeed, she considered her figures yesterday as "the best ever done in front of judges", a tribute to her honest, competitive instinct.

Her second string, Alison Law, also declined from tenth after the first figures, the rockers, to 21st after the second.

"My legs went on the loops," she said, a natural nervous reaction to the fact that she recognizes her limitations in certain exercises. It would be absurd to exaggerate Murdoch's achievement, but the more one sees of her, the more one is impressed by her fund of common sense. "All in all, I'm very pleased," she said. "I'm just happy I went out and got it all together."

Lapping into foot-fight speak, she added that her trainer, Carol Barlam, was over the moon.

Barlam herself, not given to that kind of hyperbole, expressed quiet satisfaction. "Her figures were much better than in the British championships in November," she said. "She has done a few international competitions now and has learned to get her act together, to keep calm under pressure."

Both trainer and skater experienced a shock when one judge, from Italy, calmly hoisted a dismissive mark of 1.1. Only when it was announced over the public address did he realize his mistake. Barlam then expected a correction to 2.1, and was delighted when it was raised to 3.1. At Murdoch's stage of development, anything over 3.0 is a minor triumph.

Barlam regards this result as a springboard for better things in the final two stages of the competition, the original programme this afternoon and the free skating tomorrow night. "It helps to settle you in for the other elements," she said.

RESULTS: Women's compulsory figures: 1. N Lebedeva (USSR), 0.4pc; 2. P Necke (W. Germany); 3. N Skrabshevskaya (USSR). 1. 4. 2. 3. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 839. 840. 841. 842. 843. 844. 845. 846. 847. 848. 849. 849. 850. 851. 852. 853. 854. 855. 856. 857. 858. 859. 859. 860. 861. 862. 863. 864. 865. 866. 867. 868. 869. 869. 870. 871. 872. 873. 874. 875. 876. 877. 878. 879. 879. 880. 881. 882. 883. 884. 885. 886. 887. 888. 889. 889. 890. 891. 892. 893. 894. 895. 896. 897. 898. 899. 899. 900. 901. 902. 903. 904. 905. 906. 907. 908. 909. 909. 910. 911. 912. 913. 914. 915. 916. 917. 918. 919. 919. 920. 921. 922. 923. 924. 925. 926. 927. 928. 929. 929. 930. 931. 932. 933. 934. 935. 936. 937. 938. 939. 939. 940. 941. 942. 943. 944. 945. 946. 947. 948. 949. 949. 950. 951. 952. 953. 954. 955. 956. 957. 958. 959. 959. 960. 961. 962. 963. 964. 965. 966. 967. 968. 969. 969. 970. 971. 972. 973. 974. 975. 976. 977. 978. 979. 979. 980. 981. 982. 983. 984. 985. 986. 987. 988. 989

Vacuum

The Times at the Commonwealth Games

Lewis becomes first woman swimmer to win five gold medals

By Craig Lord

Hayley Lewis put the icing on Australia's record-breaking medal cake by becoming the first woman swimmer to win five golds at a Commonwealth Games, on the final day of events at the Henderson Pool.

The Brisbane schoolgirl, aged 15, added the 200 metres butterfly title, in a Games record of 2min 11.15sec, to her victories in the 400 metres individual medley, 200 metres and 400 metres freestyle and the 4x200 metres freestyle relay. She also took bronze in the 200 metres medley.

There was more history in the making from the Australians. Glyn Housman, aged 17, and Kieran Perkins, aged 16, who became the second and third men in the world to break the 15-minute barrier for the 1,500 metres freestyle.

MEDALS

	G	S	B	Total
Australia	21	19	13	53
Canada	8	6	13	27
England	1	5	13	19
SYNCHRONIZED: Canada 2 gold; Eng-land 2 silver; Australia 3 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze; Zimbabwe 0-0-2; New Zealand 0-0-1.				

Lisa Curry-Kenny, of Australia, took her tally of gold medals to four, with victory in the 50 metres freestyle in a Commonwealth record of 25.80, taking revenge on her team-mate, Karen Van Wirdum (26.00), who beat her at the 100 metres event. For England, Jeannette Gunston, of Bracknell, set a lifetime best to take fifth in 26.54, just ahead of Caroline Woodcock, of Barnet, sixth in 26.57.

Victory was tainted for

Housman, by his time of 14.55.25, just 0.59sec outside the seven-year-old record of Vladimir Salnikov, of the Soviet Union. Housman broke that standard in December, but the electronic timing failed and, according to FINA rules, world records cannot be ratified if taken manually by just one timekeeper.

None the less, Housman's win took Australia's medal tally to a record 21 golds, 19 silvers and 13 bronzes.

For England, a personal best of 15.20.23 by Ian Wilson was good enough for fifth, while his Sunderland teammate, Kevin Boyd, a doctor, finished last in 15.38.85, which was well below par.

England took some revenge on Australia in the men's 4x100 medley relay, when Austin Shortman, aged 17, of Bristol, produced an awesome final leg to secure silver by just 0.03 of a second, in 34.38, behind Canada's 3:42.45.

That medal took England's tally to one gold, five silvers and seven bronzes, a poor show and well down on the last two Games.

However, there was another British record for Joanne Deakins, of Gloucester, in the 200 metres backstroke. In a tremendous finish, she missed the bronze by 0.21secs, in 2:14.74. Deakins, under the guidance of Henry Meinke, her coach, has now established herself as the leading British backstroker. She also captured the 100 metres English record this week.

Morgan's Games victory represents the first time everything has gone right for him at a major championship. Hopes of a medal in Seoul were wiped out by several below-par dives, and he will now be keen to stake his claim to world highboard supremacy on a wider stage.

That chance will come early in March, at the Spring Swallows international in the Soviet Union, when Morgan is set to clash with top European divers from both East and West.

For Scotland, another disastrous day made Auckland its worst Games, with no medals at all.

Morgan rules the highboard at last

Robert Morgan, of Wales, sank the opposition in the men's highboard diving on the last day of competition.

Morgan, aged 22, from Llanfair Major, who is coached by Peter Squires, the Welsh coach, and dives for Barnet Copthall, was so far ahead of his opposition that had he not dived in the last round, he would have won anyway.

He did dive, however, to take gold with a points total of 539.84 — a tally greater than that gained by Greg Louganis of the United States, when he took gold at the Seoul Olympics.

David Bedard, of Canada, captured the silver, with 555.54 points, while bronze went to his compatriot, Paul Fournier, who scored 544.50.

After his stylish victory, Mor-

gan, who is the British one-metre, three-metre and 10-metre champion, said: "I wasn't happy with my ninth and seventh placings in the one-metre and three-metre events earlier in the week. I guess it made me a little angry and really wound me up."

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Irwin rival in barging incident

John Irwin of England, was embroiled in controversy yesterday after clinching a place in the Commonwealth Games featherweight final. His opponent, Jamie Nicolson, of Australia, the world champion bronze medal winner, was disqualified after receiving three public warnings for barging.

Nicolson crumpled disbelievingly to the canvas as the referee, Omer Gagnon, of Canada, issued the third caution 43 seconds from the end of the bout. The Australian, aged 18, staggered miserably to his feet and returned to his corner in tears.

After he had composed himself, Nicolson Irwin — but he was cold-shouldered by the Australian coach, Johnny Lewis.

Ironically, it was Irwin, aged 20, a joinder by trade, who received the first warning from Gagnon for holding in the second round, much to the dismay of the large audience, who saw Nicolson as the chief culprit.

Irwin, who has yet to lose in England colours, meets Jazi Alf, of Tanzania, for gold medal.

The result cannot be overturned by any protest, although the tournament jury has the right to take action against officials. Nicolson will still receive a bronze medal.

England exceed hopes in clean sweep of gold

From Nicolas Soames

Everyone expected the England judo squad to do well in its first appearance in the main programme of the Commonwealth Games, but no one really hoped for a perfect record on the opening day, with four gold medals from four weight categories.

The heavyweight contingent excelled. From the moment the heavyweight, Sharon Lee, from Birmingham, exploded into action at the start, throwing the heavy Geraldine Dekker, of Australia, in a leg grab, to the end of the day when Ray Stevens, the light-heavyweight contained the aggression of another Australian, Dean Lampkin, the England players dominated comfortably. Not once did they concede a score.

Lee and Elvin Gordon, from the Midlands, were the most impressive, winning with a succession of perfect scores. Lee justified her ranking as world No. 2 in the stylish way she dismissed her opponents.

It was Corrie's ability to rescue himself with his third or fourth deliveries that swung the match in his favour. Taking a leaf out of Bryant's book, he showed he had digested every word: sometimes it was a ferocious firing shot that did the damage; sometimes a delicate draw.

Bryant will now turn his attention to supporting his England colleagues in the team events, where Gary Smith and Andy Thomson, of Kent, are hoping they can topple Australia in their final round robin game in section A. Tony Alcock's four are also banking on the Aussies losing at least once.

Robert Weale and Will Thomas, of Wales, are still favourites to qualify for the pairs final from section B, while Willie Wood's Scottish and Jim Baker's Irish fours are also unbeaten.

In the women's fours, England skipped by Mavis Steele and Scotland, skipped by Joyce Lindores, had also won all their matches and meet tomorrow for a place in Friday's final.

TODAY AND TOMORROW

Today's Programme
BOWLS: 21.00: women's pairs, semi-final; men's team.
CYCLING: 22.00: men's 4,000m team pursuit.
SWIMMING: 22.00: men's 100m breaststroke, individual. Mid-night Centre fire individual.

Tomorrow's programme
ATHLETICS: 11.30am: men's long jump final; men's pole vault; men's discus, 42.00m. Women's long jump, final 03.00: Women's 100m, final 04.00; men's 200m, final 05.00; men's 400m, final 05.40; men's 800m, final 06.40; men's 1,500m, final 07.40; men's 5,000m, final 08.40; men's 10,000m, final 09.40; men's 30km race walk, semi-final.
BADMINTON: 05.00: all events, semi-final.
BOXING: 02.00: women's pairs, final.
CYCLING: 03.00: men's 4,000m team pursuit; women's 300m individual. Highlights of the sprints and sprints.

GAMES ON TV

Today

BBC1 11.30am: Boxing semi-finals.

BBC1 11.55am-1pm and 7-8pm: European 3-4:30pm: Highlights of the sixth day.

TOMORROW

BBC1 1.30am: men's high jump final; 3.30am: men's long jump final; men's pole vault; men's discus, 42.00m. Women's long jump, final 03.00: Women's 100m, final 04.00; men's 200m, final 05.00; men's 400m, final 05.40; men's 800m, final 06.40; men's 1,500m, final 07.40; men's 5,000m, final 08.40; men's 10,000m, final 09.40; men's 30km race walk, semi-final.

BBC1 11.30am: men's 100m, final.

BBC1 11.55am-1pm and 7-8pm: European 3-4:30pm: Highlights of the sixth day.

TONIGHT

BBC1 1.30am: men's 400m, final.

BBC1 11.30am: men's 200m, final.

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BBC1 11.30am: men's 200m, final.

BBC1 11.55am-1pm and 7-8pm: European 3-4

Gilkes voices his disappointments over Thompson

Daley Thompson, Britain's leading all-round athlete of the 1980s, offers a bad example to youngsters off the track, according to Eugene Gilkes yesterday, the day after he won a bronze medal for England in the decathlon at the Commonwealth Games in Auckland.

Gilkes, a club-mate of Thompson at Newham and his likely successor as England's No. 1 decathlete, admitted that the two men rarely speak. Gilkes said that the former double Olympic champion was "not the ideal role model" for youngsters.

"Sometimes he lets himself and the event down," said

No test facilities for drugs in India

Delhi (Reuter) — The Indian weightlifter who failed a drugs test at the Commonwealth Games was not tested previously because India had no adequate testing facilities, the head of the country's weightlifting federation said yesterday.

Subrakumara Paul, winner of two silver medals and a bronze in the lightweight (67.5kg) division, tested positive for anabolic steroids in an initial test on Monday.

Paul flew home before hearing the result of the follow-up test being conducted in Sydney, but Games sources said yesterday it had also proved positive.

Retired Air Marshal Chaman Mehta said Paul could not be adequately tested before the Games in Auckland because "we do not have any such testing facilities in India". He said all that the Weightlifting Federation of India (WFI) could do was know Paul's whereabouts.

By John Goodbody

Weightlifting, one of the most splendidly basic of sports, has been riddled with drugs for more than 20 years.

So frequently have there been drug scandals at important Games that there were moves to drop weightlifting from the Olympic Games programme after Seoul, when five of the 10 competitors found positive were from weightlifting and the team from Bulgaria, one of the two strongest nations in the world, was sent home.

This call for expulsion was revived in Auckland after the disqualification of Subrakumara Paul of India, after tests. However, Tamas Ajan, the secretary general of the International Weightlifting Federation, immediately objected, saying "In that case you can kick out

any sport because all the sports have their own problems."

Ajan said it was easy to single out any sport for expulsion because the problem of drugs in sport was so widespread. "But why this sport? Why not another sport?"

He said that weightlifting had strict random testing worldwide, although he admitted it was still not enough. "Drugs are the main problem of modern sport. Even though we are doing many drug tests, the present procedures are not perfect."

Weightlifting has always been particularly susceptible to competitors who take proscribed substances. A weightlifter's introspection and observational desire for self-improvement have always lent themselves to an interest in diet, food supplements and eventually to drug-taking in a

Games.

Gilkes, aged 27, who after years in Thompson's shadow has had to battle through a series of injury problems to earn his Auckland success, "I wouldn't want my son to behave in public the way Daley has sometimes done," he said.

Thompson has often courted controversy off the track. He once used a four-letter word on television when collecting the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award and caused a storm when he made flippant comments about the Princess Royal during a press conference when he won gold in the decathlon at the Los Angeles Olympic

"Sometimes he lets himself and the event down," said

warn lifters of the dangers of drug use.

"Lifters are not generally tested for drugs... We have to accept their words on face value, while warning them of the consequences if found guilty on this count," Mehta said.

"Don't get me wrong, Daley

Thompson is a great athlete — he has been the decathlon for the past 10 years. If I were a youngster, I would have to admire Daley's athletic ability, but one has to say that he is not the ideal role model for people's children."

Thompson, in New Zealand to watch the Games, was reluctant to comment either on Gilkes' performance or his words but confirmed that he is back in training after his knee operation last year and hopes to compete in the European Championships in Yugoslavia in August. "I feel no urge to compete here, but I aim to be in Yugoslavia," he said.

Both Mehta and an IOA spokesman said they did not know Paul's whereabouts.



Hard words: Gilkes collected a medal, then came out of Thompson's shadow to launch an attack

Weightlifting under threat of expulsion

By John Goodbody

At the 1976 Olympic Games, the reputation of the sport received a savage blow when seven weightlifters were found positive, including three medal winners.

Although there were no positive tests at the 1980 Olympics, many competitors had now adopted a new strategy. Because hormone drugs are used primarily in training, weightlifters would take the drugs throughout the year and then cease taking them about a month before a competition.

Stimulants were also used to aid competitors on the day of competition, and when drug tests were introduced at the 1970 world weightlifting championships, eight competitors were found positive, including several medal winners.

Experimental testing for anabolic steroids, which help in the retention of nitrogen and the utilization of protein, was carried out at the 1974 Commonwealth Games after

any sport because all the sports have their own problems."

Anabolics, the bodybuilding drugs which help increase muscular weight and aid competitors to recover more quickly from intensive training, became widely used in the 1980s, particularly in the United States and the communist countries, where weightlifting is especially popular.

Stimulants were also used to aid competitors on the day of competition, and when drug tests were introduced at the 1970 world weightlifting championships, eight competitors were found positive, including several medal winners.

They would then get most of the benefit from the substances but without always risking detection. In the period after coming off steroids or testosterone, the male hormone with a pure anabolic action, competitors might use

a breakthrough in analysis by Professor Raymond Brooks in London.

Human Growth Hormone (HGH), for which there is no accurate test.

However, the drug scandals continued. In 1983 Anatoly Pisarenko, the world super-heavyweight champion, was found positive for a hormone drug while competing in the 1983 national under-23 championships.

Tom Hawk, the British under-23 super-heavyweight powerlifting record-holder, died in a strongman competition in Stirling on July 5, 1988. There is a growing belief that anabolic steroids contributed to his death. When police searched his hotel room, they found hormone drugs.

Two months ago, Steve

Pinsent, the 1982 Commonwealth champion, was jailed in Aylesbury for supplying hormone drugs. Pinsent was a link in a long and intricate chain for buying and selling substances which stretched across Europe and the United States and involved David

Jenkins, the former Olympic athlete.

Pinsent bought drugs from Richard Crowley, a former member of Britain's junior under-23 squad, who was found positive for a hormone drug while competing in the 1983 national under-23 championships.

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Hawk trained at the Thames Valley College gymnasium, run by Pinsent. However, there is no evidence that Hawk obtained the drugs from Pinsent or the gymnasium.

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BLUE CROSS

Charlton fear threat of closure

Roger Alwen, the Charlton Athletic chairman, has warned that the club's future will be in danger if, as expected, their proposals to return to The Valley are thrown out by Greenwich Council's planning and transport committee tomorrow.

Council officers have recommended rejection of Charlton's planning application to redevelop their former ground because of traffic, lack of parking, the use of the stadium for non-football events and the club's proposal for commercial offices and banqueting facilities.

But Alwen said: "We cannot continue to sustain the financial losses in our ground-sharing at Selhurst Park. We are perfectly placed to provide the newest and best all-seater stadium in the country. I cannot believe the Council would turn down such an opportunity."

Charlton already have the right to play football at The Valley.

The public inquiry to try to obtain a compulsory purchase order on Fulham football club's ground, Craven Cottage, began at Fulham Town Hall yesterday, despite Fulham's announcement that they have agreed to leave the ground.

Although the club has agreed a £13 million deal with Cabra Estates, the owners of the ground, Hammersmith and Fulham council plan to attempt to obtain a compulsory purchase order.

Councillor Gordon Prentice said: "We do not have the support of Jimmy Hill and the directors, but we do have the overwhelming support of the fans and everyone who is committed to keeping football at Craven Cottage."

Leeds raid union for Irvine

By Peter Bills

Leeds rugby league club yesterday completed the first part of their swoop on rugby union players, by signing Simon Irvine, the England B centre, from Headingley.

Irvine made the move into the professional ranks for a fee believed to be in the region of £65,000, spread over a four-year deal.

Leeds have therefore bolstered their recruitment of Charlton's planning application to redevelop their former ground because of traffic, lack of parking, the use of the stadium for non-football events and the club's proposal for commercial offices and banqueting facilities.

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Revenge hope

East German athletes will get the chance to avenge two significant defeats in the European and World Cup competitions by Great Britain when they compete in the Dairy Crest Games at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall on February 23. The Germans' strongest side is expected.

Whitehaven.

Leeds hope to complete the most expensive part of their rebuilding programme later this week, by signing David Young and Tony Clement, the Welsh rugby union internationals. Young is said to be uncertain about the move although Clement is keen.

The move for Irvine, generally regarded as one of the more promising young England rugby union centres, had been masked by reports that Leeds were about to sign Neil Summers, the Headingley scrum half. Leeds recognize Summers' talent but wanted Irvine because, as Bill Carter, their club secretary, said yes-

terday: "There is a spot for him in the middle of our back division."

Carter added: "We regard Irvine as an outstanding prospect. He has quite a lot of experience in senior rugby and is only 22. We feel he can become a real success. He has been playing good rugby for quite a while. He is a nicely built lad for a centre and we think he will adapt well."

Bentley was the first player Leeds had signed from rugby union for some years. But if they clinch the capture of Young and Clement there will be a considerable gathering of former union men at Headingley.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Pakistan event plan

Islamabad (Reuter) — Pakistan are planning an international one-day cricket tournament later this year to which they aim to attract all the leading cricket-playing countries.

The commerce minister, Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat, said yesterday the tournament would be played at all main cricket centres, with some matches under floodlights.

Charity game

Munich (AP) — The West German football champions, Bayern Munich, will play the Romanian World Cup team in a charity match on February 7 at the Olympic stadium in Munich, to raise money for Romania.

Ballesteros: heads Dubai list

Head of field

Dubai (AP) — Severiano Ballesteros of Spain, heads the field in next month's Emirates Airline Desert Golf Classic in Dubai.

Car back

The German Open golf championship will be sponsored for the next three years by the Swedish car company Volvo.

Griffiths's job

Caroline Griffiths has been elected chairman of the Women Professional Golfers European Tour.

Cocooned team refusing to accept reality

From Richard Streeton, Bloemfontein

As reports of bloodshed and violence in the city centre and nearby townships multiplied yesterday, it seemed obscene that the root cause of the trouble, a cricket match, should be allowed to continue.

The contrast was stark and incredible: Mike Gatting and his England XI and their South African opponents could hear a peaceful demonstration against them going on out of sight behind the pavilion; that was all; otherwise, they have not been affected one iota as the situation has rapidly deteriorated.

This controversial tour, however, is not an instance of cricket taking place under siege, at least not in the sense that the 1969-70 South African rugby tour to Britain was disrupted. The demonstrators this time have been unable to get into a cricket ground, let alone stop play, and they have not been able to enter the team's hotel. The South African police, complete with their dogs, guns and tear gas, have made sure of that.

Gatting's players are trying desperately not to show the growing anxiety that must be gnawing at them. The party line from their spokesmen remains that they only wish to play cricket which should be divorced from politics. It is a trite, tired parrot cry from a group of naive sportsmen who are protected everywhere by armed guards and cosseted by their local anti-tour committee leader, contacted Dr Ali Bacher, SACU's managing director, for his help and a repetition of the weekend events at Kimberley took place.

Earlier, Bacher reminded us that the right to protest on political issues had the backing of the Government: "Please remember that protests are a new phenomena for us in South Africa. It is a learning experience that we are going through." SACU still says that it cannot be held responsible for any fracas in townships, however much they obviously regret that it is happening.

SACU, which has already sold 80,000 tickets for the coming representative games, believed that the tour was essential if cricket standards were to be maintained. It hoped that any opposition would be won over by its cricket development scheme in the townships.

Sadly for some extremely well-intentioned men, it has gone horribly wrong. As the world's media start to gather for Nelson Mandela's release — there is as much talk in the press box of shared experiences in Tiananmen Square and Romania as there is about cricket — it still remains inexplicable that the South African Government allows the tour to continue along a rocky path.

England bowlers harshly treated

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, Barbados

In these impressionable early days of a tour, when all things remain possible, the smallest occurrences will disproportionately comfort or depress. Yesterday's early bulletins seemed almost uniformly encouraging to an England side engaged in its first competitive match of the tour. Old hands, however, were not taken in.

News that Viv Richards and Malcolm Marshall remain troubled by injuries was followed by visual evidence of truth in the dubious rumours of slower pitches around the Caribbean. Further succour arrived in the shape of a vibrant 78 by Nasser Hussain, the most contentious of all England's tour selections, with the groundsmen given the nod: more encouraging for England is that, on all available evidence, Kingston's Sabina Park, venue for the First Test, is behaving more consistently these days.

Hussain's innings was far from unblemished but, in concert with Larkins' volatile 88 on Monday, it at least indicates that the two most adventurous strokemakers in the party are acclimating.